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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the 8th meeting on 1 May 2014. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was headed by So Se Pyong, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Geneva. At its 14th meeting, held on 6 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Côte d'Ivoire, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRK/1 and the annex thereto);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRK/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRK/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that during the reporting period broad consultations had been held with a large number of institutions and organizations with a view to giving serious consideration to the recommendations received during the country's first-cycle review; as a result, a decision was taken to accept many of those recommendations and take note of some others. Most of the accepted recommendations had been implemented or were under implementation.

6. The Government attached importance to the UPR mechanism and expected that the review would be a good occasion to provide an objective and impartial assessment of the human rights situation in the country.

7. A series of human rights-related laws, including in the areas of education, health care, the protection of the rights of the child, women and persons with disabilities, and disaster prevention were adopted or amended during the reporting period. Due regard was given to the international human rights instruments to which the country was a party.

8. Innovative measures taken for the protection and promotion of civil and political rights were described. A general pardon had been granted to convicts. Owing to the amendment of the Criminal Law in 2010, the terms of penalties had been shortened and the degree of punishment mitigated. The independence and impartiality of the judiciary was further ensured through the amending of the Criminal Procedure Law in 2011.

9. The Government made efforts to improve economic construction and people's living and to build a socialist civilized country. In order to address food shortages the Government paid special attention to the agricultural sector, inter alia, incentivizing farmers through the introduction of new agricultural management methods and innovating agricultural science and technology.

10. Efforts were focused on laying the material and technical foundations for people to fully enjoy the benefits of a universal free medical-care system, while trying to achieve international standards in major health indicators.

11. The universal compulsory education had been transformed from an 11-year system to a 12-year system, starting from the 2014/15 school year. The quality of university education had been further enhanced through the improved educational conditions. A tele-education system had been set up, linking the local libraries and scientific and educational institutions to the central library.

12. Thousands of modern houses and welfare facilities had been built in Pyongyang and in the provinces. In 2013 alone, hundreds of places for leisure and cultural activities had been set up countrywide.

13. Progress had been made in protecting and promoting the rights of children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Special attention was given to health care and education for children without parents.

14. Measures had been taken for the care of older persons with no one to depend on and a new support system had been established. The Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities had refined the scope of its activities, with a series of measures taken for the early detection and recovery of children with disabilities.

15. The delegation reiterated the Government's commitment to continue efforts to ensure the enjoyment of human rights by the population despite the serious challenges faced. The persistent politically motivated pressure and military threat by outside forces remained major sources contributing to the destruction of the peaceful environment needed for economic development and improvement of people's standard of living. Moreover, the economic sanctions threatened the people's right to existence and the peaceful development of the country.

16. The Government would further promote cooperation and dialogue with friendly countries and open up new channels for improved relationships with others without questioning the past. The delegation assured the Human Rights Council of the Government's commitment to fulfil its international human rights obligations. It expressed the conviction that the review would serve as an occasion to promote understanding of the real human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 85 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. Turkmenistan welcomed efforts to strengthen legislation, the adoption of several laws to protect women and children, and changes to the education system.

19. Uganda noted efforts to cooperate with the United Nations system, progress regarding health services and access to quality education.

20. Ukraine regretted that OHCHR technical assistance had not been accepted. It asked what measures had been taken to enable separated families to unite.

21. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland called on the country to take action on the recommendations of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by closing prison camps and investigating alleged violations.

22. The United States of America was concerned at what the commission of inquiry termed systematic gross human rights violations, and urged the country to accept technical assistance from OHCHR.

23. Uruguay expressed concerns about the human rights situation and urged the country to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and follow up the recommendations of the commission of inquiry.

24. Uzbekistan welcomed progress in various areas and legislative measures to protect vulnerable groups. Further efforts were needed to improve the welfare of the population.

25. Sri Lanka noted the adoption of several laws, in particular on children's and women's rights, and improvements in education and health care.

26. Viet Nam noted efforts regarding socioeconomic development. It expressed concerns about the food supply and health care for vulnerable groups.

27. Zimbabwe noted various achievements and urged the country to accelerate the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and consider accession to other international instruments.

28. Algeria encouraged the ratification of core international instruments. It expressed hope that a national human rights institution (NHRI) might be established.

29. Angola noted the signing of CRPD and efforts to improve women's rights, but also noted that further efforts could be made.

30. Argentina was concerned about the human rights situation in the country. The situation of persons detained in prison camps required particular attention.

31. Australia was disappointed by the country's refusal to cooperate with the commission of inquiry and supported the commission's call for accountability for those responsible for crimes against humanity.

32. Austria expressed concern about the situation of human rights in the country, noting the report of commission of inquiry, which substantiated that violations in many instances constituted crimes against humanity, and about non-cooperation with United Nations mechanisms.

33. Bangladesh expressed admiration for the adoption of legislation on women's rights and noted the reduction of maternal mortality and progress towards achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5.

34. Belarus welcomed the adoption of legislation regarding vulnerable groups, and achievements in education, health care and food security.

35. Belgium regretted the country's lack of transparency, illustrated by the refusal to authorize visits from special procedures mandate holders and other organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

36. The Plurinational State of Bolivia noted progress and encouraged the country to continue to strengthen human rights protection at the institutional, legal and policy levels.

37. Botswana was concerned at reports of violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and arbitrary detention. It encouraged full cooperation with United Nations mechanisms.

38. Brazil encouraged the establishment of an additional mechanism for separated families. The vulnerable situation of women and children required urgent measures.

39. Burundi commended and encouraged further strengthening of the human rights education programme. It praised measures guaranteeing gender equality in all areas

40. Canada enquired about the decrease in the political prisoner population, the causes of death and fulfilment of basic needs in detention, and the number of collective punishment detentions and of juvenile, elderly and pregnant detainees.

41. Chad encouraged efforts to continue to improve the human rights situation. It noted that the country was party to core international instruments.

42. Chile was concerned about the lack of openness, cooperation and dialogue. It encouraged the country to respond to recommendations received and to permit visits from special procedures mandate holders.

43. China commended measures to promote and protect human rights. It called on the international community to approach the situation in a fair and objective manner and to engage in constructive dialogues and cooperation with the country.

44. Costa Rica expressed concern that the "military first" policy prevented equitable distribution of resources. It urged the country to establish an NHRI.

45. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela praised the progress made over the reporting period, including the provision of rural health services through telemedicine and the modernization of facilities.

46. The Czech Republic was concerned about the human rights situation in the country as reported by the commission of inquiry.

47. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted the adoption of laws; the signature of CRPD; and the ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

48. Denmark expressed its regret that the country had declined to cooperate with the commission of inquiry, and expressed concern about reports of systematic torture in detention, a matter raised in UPR recommendations presented in 2009 that had not been accepted by the country.

49. Ecuador noted new legislation to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, and areas requiring additional efforts, especially regarding detention centres, where conditions should be improved.

50. Egypt noted challenges to combating domestic violence and human trafficking and to protecting children's rights. It commended the new legislation and investment in education and health.

51. Estonia expressed regret at the country's unwillingness to cooperate with the commission of inquiry, including its prevention of access to the country and rejection of the commission's findings.

52. Ethiopia was encouraged that the country was on track to achieve MDG 4. It called on the international community to provide sustainable humanitarian assistance funding.

53. Finland asked how the country would ensure universal access to food, particularly for marginalized groups. It encouraged the country to cooperate with human rights mechanisms to address violations.

54. France noted that the report of the commission of inquiry contained a full description of the dramatic human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

55. Germany expressed hope that the country would seriously consider the recommendations presented in the review, and remained deeply concerned about a wide range of issues.

56. Ghana commended steps towards the implementation of some recommendations accepted during the first UPR, including signature of CRPD.

57. The delegation expressed its view that the creation of the "commission of inquiry" was motivated by reasons other than human rights. The purpose of its mission was to defame the country and ultimately eliminate the ideology and social system chosen by its population. The "report" of the commission contained fabrications and constituted a manifestation of politicization, selectivity and double standards that ran counter to the principles of the Human Rights Council. Therefore, the Government had rejected the "commission", its "report" and the consequent "resolution".

58. With regard to *Songun* politics, the delegation stated that safeguarding national sovereignty provided a guarantee for the enjoyment by people of their human rights. The right to life was the foremost issue in guaranteeing human rights and of great importance to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who had been exposed, for more than half a century, to persistent military threats by hostile forces. *Songun* politics served to safeguard national sovereignty and had prevented the outbreak of war, making it possible to attain tangible achievements on the economic front.

59. The delegation stated that alleged discrimination based on social classification of people was unimaginable in the country, where all people were the masters of the State and society, and noted that equality was guaranteed by the Constitution and in practice.

60. It was reiterated that "political prison camps" did not exist and were a complete fabrication. Those persons sentenced to the penalty of reform through labour under the country's Criminal Law served their terms in reform institutions.

61. The Constitution also guaranteed freedom of religion; the State respected the religious life and ceremonies of religious people and ensured the freedom to set up churches and other religious buildings.

62. Freedom to travel was fully guaranteed both by the Constitution and the law. Persons in the country could travel abroad after complying with the necessary formalities. People were free to travel anywhere within the country, with the exception of the front lines and areas with military installations, where one could travel after obtaining permission.

63. It was also reiterated that freedom of expression was a fundamental human right protected by law. The people in the country freely expressed their views through the radio, newspapers and magazines. Any violation of those rights was subject to legal punishment.

64. Greece condemned the atrocities and ongoing grave human rights violations in the country, which amounted in many instances to crimes against humanity.

65. Hungary asked about the nature of the acts for which the death penalty could be imposed and about the number of executions. It expressed concern regarding torture in prison facilities.

66. Iceland condemned in the strongest terms the unparalleled denial of human rights in the country. It urged the country to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including by allowing the Special Rapporteur access to the country.

67. India welcomed progress, including in the health sector. It expressed concern about access to food. India urged regular family reunions. A national human rights institution would improve the protection of human rights.

68. Indonesia acknowledged relevant new legislation and the institutional reorganization to ensure its implementation. It encouraged the country to engage in technical cooperation.

69. Ireland expressed concern about the unparalleled human rights situation, reports of rape and sexual abuse of women in detention, chronic food insecurity and malnutrition.

70. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the signature of CRPD and the consideration of other human rights instruments. International mechanisms, based on mutual respect, domestic requirements and understanding, would facilitate efforts by the country to enhance an environment conducive to continued improvement of human rights.

71. Israel noted human rights violations, including starvation, suppression of freedom of movement and expression, gender-based discrimination, public executions, enforced disappearance, torture, abductions and prison camps.

72. Italy expressed concern about the death penalty, undue restrictions of freedom of movement, the criminalization of repatriated citizens and gender discrimination. It stressed the need for cooperation with international mechanisms.

73. Kazakhstan called for an abstention from politicization, for impartiality and for the country to strengthen its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms.

74. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the country's accession to international conventions and the enactment of national legislation. It welcomed the improved education, and encouraged experience-sharing and international cooperation.

75. Latvia noted reports that the country had refused to cooperate with the special procedures and urged the country to grant access to mandate holders.

76. Lithuania remained concerned about systemic and gross human rights violations. It urged the country to take steps to halt such violations.

77. Malaysia noted efforts to address gender-based violence, strengthen the economy and improve international cooperation. The development of a knowledge-based economy was encouraged.

78. Mexico expressed appreciation of the steps taken to implement CRPD, and invited the country to ratify it. It encouraged the country to consider accession to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

79. Montenegro condemned the grave human rights violations, including restrictions on the freedom of expression and movement and the use of political prison camps.

80. Mozambique noted the country's ratification of some international instruments, which were later incorporated into national legislation; and the increased investment in health care and drinking-water provision.

81. Myanmar welcomed the country's active participation in the UPR, and the universal 12-year free and compulsory education system.

82. Namibia welcomed the signing of CRPD, the ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the enactment of the acts on women's and children's rights.

83. The Netherlands was gravely concerned about the use of torture in the country. It commented that a life in dignity was difficult for citizens, who had to serve the State, rather than the other way around.

84. New Zealand, given the findings of the commission of inquiry, remained deeply concerned about human rights in the country, the severe lack of access to basic human needs, and political prison camps.

85. Nicaragua noted advances in economic, social and cultural rights and the adoption of legislation on preventing and mitigating natural disasters.

86. Norway requested a clear and timely response to all recommendations presented during the review, and urged the country to honour its legal obligations as a party to human rights instruments.

87. Pakistan noted the strengthening of domestic legislation, the restructuring of ministries and efforts to modernize the health-care system. It encouraged ratification of CRPD.

88. Poland stressed the obligation of the State under review to take a clear position on all UPR recommendations at the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the report of the Working Group, at the latest.

89. Portugal was deeply worried about long-standing, systematic and widespread violations of human rights, which amounted to crimes against humanity.

90. The Republic of Korea expressed its regret at the delayed response of the State under review regarding its position on the previous UPR recommendations.

91. Romania welcomed the action on CRPD. Noting the findings of the commission of inquiry, it expressed regret that the issue of international abductions remained unsettled.

92. The Russian Federation noted steps taken to improve the human rights situation in light of the recommendations of the first review, and expressed hope that those efforts would be intensified.

93. On the right to food, the delegation noted that the Government had directed primary efforts to increase food production. Details regarding action taken in that regard had been provided. The country never practiced discrimination in food distribution.

94. The delegation noted, on the issue of separated families, that although the inter-Korean relations had deteriorated in an unprecedented manner during the period under review, the Government, with a view to relieving the pain of the families and relatives separated in the north and south, had persevered in its efforts for the realization of reunions, and as a result, reunions had been resumed and held twice in February 2014.

95. The delegation also reiterated that the issue of prisoners of war had been completely settled in accordance with the Armistice Agreement and that the issue of "abduction of south Koreans" did not exist.

96. The delegation indicated that, to promote dialogue and cooperation with human rights mechanisms, replies had been sent to OHCHR clarifying the country's positions on questions raised. At the same time, recommendations by treaty bodies had been faithfully implemented.

97. Unfortunately, the country had been singled out for naming and shaming through the coercive adoption of unjust "resolutions" in the General Assembly and the Human Rights

Council each year. Such "resolutions" were full of distortions and fabrications and imposed unjust demands.

98. The country attached great importance to constructive dialogue in the field of human rights. It had acceded to international human rights instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and was doing all it could to fulfil its obligations under those treaties. Consultations were under way on possible accession to additional international human rights instruments. Furthermore, the reports on the implementation of the instruments to which it was a party were under preparation.

99. With regard to the presentation of the country's position on recommendations of the first cycle, the delegation clarified that, of the 167 recommendations received, 50 politicized ones had been rejected. Subsequently, in the plenary session in 2010 it had stated that the rest of the recommendations had been duly taken note of, as per the general practice then. Unfortunately, although it had simply followed general practice, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was unjustly singled out for accusations. That did not mean that the country was indifferent to the implementation of recommendations. On the contrary, it was truly committed to the UPR process and would provide responses to the recommendations made at the present session in due course.

100. Sierra Leone noted the enactment of legislation on higher education and the rights of children and persons with disabilities. It urged the country to submit its overdue reports to the treaty bodies.

101. Singapore noted the country's strengthened legislative framework and that challenges remained in development and improving people's well-being.

102. Slovakia was concerned about the death penalty, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, restrictions on freedoms and access to information, and political prisoners.

103. Slovenia was concerned about violations of economic, social and cultural rights and the findings of the commission of inquiry.

104. South Sudan commended the country's progress in education, health care, the provision of safe drinking water and the care of orphans. It encouraged continued efforts in the area of health.

105. Spain expressed concern about the separation of powers and human rights violations against political prisoners held in large camps.

106. Cuba noted that the State under review was endeavouring to consolidate a socialist society in the face of aggressive imperialist policies directed against its country.

107. The Sudan welcomed the signing of CRPD and progress in health care and education. It encouraged continued efforts to raise awareness of human rights throughout the country.

108. Sweden was alarmed at the findings of the commission of inquiry, which had highlighted a systematic infringement of human rights, atrocities against political prisoners and evidence of crimes against humanity.

109. The Syrian Arab Republic expressed its appreciation of the country's efforts to improve living standards despite challenges, notably economic sanctions, and its progress in education, health care and women's and children's rights.

110. Thailand welcomed the engagement with the UPR mechanism, but noted discrepancies in information in the reports, given the inability of the United Nations and other stakeholders to verify information provided by the Government.

111. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia expressed its dismay at extrajudicial killings and public executions, restrictions on freedom of movement and conditions of detention for political prisoners.

112. Timor-Leste commended the revision of the legislative framework and the adoption of human rights legislation, including on education and children's and women's rights.

113. Tunisia encouraged the completion of legislative reform and the establishment of the rule of law. It urged the country to adopt measures to guarantee citizens' rights without discrimination.

114. Turkey, concerned by the findings of the commission of inquiry, urged the State under review to fulfil its international human rights obligations and to cooperate with the international community.

115. Switzerland deplored the lack of cooperation with human rights mechanisms, and was concerned about impunity for human rights violations and crimes against humanity, chronic malnutrition and violations of the right to food.

116. Japan was concerned about the systematic violations highlighted in the report of the commission of inquiry. It did not agree that there was no abduction issue; the reinvestigation agreed to in 2008 had not been carried out, proving that the abduction issue had not been resolved.

117. The delegation gave details on the laws and structures in place to ensure the independence of the judiciary. It reiterated that, in principle, executions were not open to the public. Public executions may occur only in exceptional cases, where the crime committed was extremely grave. Information was also provided on reforms regarding the imposition of penalties and treatment of prisoners.

118. With regard to questions on illegal border crossing, it was noted that the economic difficulties of the mid-1990s had caused some people to cross the borders illegally. However, although those people had breached the law they were never punished, as they did so for economic reasons.

119. With regard to the abduction of citizens of other countries, the delegation reiterated that no citizens of any countries other than Japan had been abducted into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The delegation recalled that the issue had been completely resolved as a result of sincere efforts made by the country in faithful compliance with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan Pyongyang Declaration published in September 2002.

120. The delegation provided further information on the improved quality of medical services, including on the introduction of telemedicine and improvements in maternal and child health.

121. The delegation indicated that legislation, including the Criminal Law, protected women from violence. Recommendations to end violence against women were based on a lack of understanding of the situation in the country.

122. The delegation stated that allegations of "systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations" in the country were ridiculous and a complete fabrication.

123. In conclusion, the delegation stated that the session had been a good occasion for a sincere and constructive dialogue and that it would continue its efforts for genuine cooperation in the field of human rights, including in the UPR process.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

124. **The following recommendations will be examined by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014:**

124.1 **Further fulfil the internationally taken obligations as well as join new human rights international instruments (Kazakhstan);**

124.2 **Consider the ratification of international human rights instruments to which it is still not a party (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

124.3 **Accede to international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Chad);**

124.4 **Consider acceding to ICERD and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Egypt);**

124.5 **Consider the possibility of acceding to ICERD and CAT (Russian Federation);**

124.6 **Ratify international conventions, particularly ICERD, CAT, ICRMW and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), with the aim of enacting them into national law (Sierra Leone);**

124.7 **Ratify ICERD, CAT and its Optional Protocol, CPED, CRPD, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Tunisia);**

124.8 **Ratify key international human rights treaties, in particular CAT and CPED, and comply with its obligations (Brazil);**

124.9 **Sign and ratify CAT, as recommended previously (Turkey);**

124.10 **Accede to CAT and take immediate action to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment of all detainees (Denmark);**

124.11 **Adopt a clear time-bound plan to become party to CAT as a key step towards demonstrating genuine commitment to protecting human rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

124.12 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP 2); CAT and OP-CAT; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the three optional protocols to CRC (Portugal);**

124.13 **Ratify core international human rights conventions, in particular CAT and ICCPR-OP 2 (Latvia);**

124.14 **Ratify ICCPR-OP 2 (Uruguay);**

124.15 **Ratify CRPD, which was signed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in July 2013 (France);**

124.16 **Take further steps to expedite the ratification of CRPD and its Optional Protocol (OP-CRPD) (Ghana);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

124.17 **Continue the efforts to become part of all the main international human rights instruments and cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council as well as with treaty bodies (Estonia);**

124.18 **Continue to strengthen its domestic legal framework and implement its international human rights obligations (Singapore);**

124.19 **Amend the national legislation in order to make it compatible with international human rights standards, and to establish an NHRI (Poland);**

124.20 **Strengthen the work on aligning the national legislation and legal practice with the international obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the protection of human rights (Russian Federation);**

124.21 **Promulgate more laws and regulations on economic, social and cultural rights, to improve the legal framework concerning the exercise of human rights (Algeria);**

124.22 **Consider establishing an NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

124.23 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**

124.24 **Establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as recommended previously (India);**

124.25 **Establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);**

124.26 **Establish an independent NHRI and an effective complaints mechanism (Sierra Leone);**

124.27 **Intensify efforts to increase the level of well-being of the population and improve the national human rights protection system (Uzbekistan);**

124.28 **Maintain constructive and cooperative dialogue in the field of human rights (Timor-Leste);**

124.29 **Cooperate responsibly with the international community (Japan);**

124.30 **Continue taking concrete measures to further promote and protect human rights, particularly for women and children (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.31 **Continue to implement national laws in compliance with international human rights instruments in all areas, especially on the human rights of vulnerable groups, rights of the child, women's rights, rights of persons with disabilities and elderly persons (Thailand);**

124.32 **Continue to fulfil its obligations under the international human rights instruments (Timor-Leste);**

124.33 **Fulfil its commitments under ratified fundamental human rights instruments (Poland);**

124.34 **Take more practical measures for the protection of children, women and other vulnerable groups and full enjoyment of their rights (Cuba);**

124.35 **Take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of laws on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child (Syrian Arab Republic)**

124.36 **Make further efforts to enhance awareness of rights of women and children as contained in the newly adopted laws (Timor-Leste);**

124.37 **Increase dialogue, consultations and cooperation with the international community, relevant United Nations bodies, United Nations human rights mechanisms and other stakeholders to enhance mutual understanding and further improve the human rights situation in the country (Thailand);**

124.38 **Enhanced and steadier efforts by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the other relevant stakeholders towards constructive engagement in genuine dialogue and effective cooperation in order to settle the matters of mutual concern (Viet Nam);**

124.39 **Encourage the participation of social organizations in the dissemination of international human rights instruments, with a view to increasing public awareness of human rights (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

124.40 **Step up its efforts in human rights awareness programmes, including releasing publications related to human rights with a view to familiarising the general public with those international human rights standards and instruments to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party (Malaysia);**

124.41 **Strengthen efforts aiming at disseminating the human rights culture through various activities throughout the country (Sudan);**

124.42 **Make efforts to explore options and introduce new methodologies with a view to raise awareness of human rights in the country (Ethiopia);**

124.43 **Promote training and human rights education for public officials (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

124.44 **Provide law enforcement officials more information on international human rights instruments (Pakistan);**

124.45 **Take measures to ensure international humanitarian aid reaches the most vulnerable and needy (Ethiopia);**

124.46 **Work closely with humanitarian agencies to ensure their free and unimpeded access to all populations in need and that humanitarian aid is distributed transparently and reaches the most vulnerable citizens (New Zealand);**

124.47 **Secure unlimited access and entirely satisfactory monitoring conditions for humanitarian organisations (Norway);**

124.48 **Continue its cooperation and dialogue with the relevant international organisations with the aim to address the socio-economic needs of its people (Singapore);**

124.49 **Take concrete and immediate steps to improve the human rights situation in the country, inter alia, by engaging with international human rights bodies and mechanisms in a sustained way, including by granting access to the country as well as taking on board recommendations of such bodies and mechanisms for further consideration, dialogue and implementation (Denmark);**

124.50 **Cooperate with the United Nations and international organizations to confront challenges and obstacles in the area of human rights, and to share good practices with other countries in that regard (Algeria);**

124.51 **Continue developing cooperation with the human rights machinery of the United Nations (Kazakhstan);**

124.52 **Engage in dialogue and cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanism on the basis of mutual respect and equality (China);**

124.53 **Strengthen cooperation with international organizations, particularly in the areas of health, education and food (Burundi);**

124.54 **Consider promptly joining the International Labour Organization (Uruguay);**

124.55 **Continue with the cooperation programs, in line with the World Food Programme, with priority given to the most vulnerable groups, such as elderly persons, women and children, and ensure they are implemented transparently (Uruguay);**

124.56 **Further facilitate a conducive environment for relevant human rights-related organizations to help implement the recommendations received during the UPR process (Viet Nam);**

124.57 **Review seriously all the comments and recommendations made during the review and clearly indicate in due time which recommendations it accepts and how it plans to implement them (Republic of Korea);**

124.58 **Extend immediate and unrestricted access to United Nations special procedures and to OHCHR, in order to enable them to carry out their mandates (Turkey);**

124.59 **Begin fully cooperating with United Nations human rights special procedures in order to improve the situation of human rights (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

124.60 **Consider the request of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to visit the country (India);**

124.61 **Cooperate with the treaty bodies and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (Tunisia);**

124.62 **Maintain constructive cooperation with the treaty bodies of the United Nations human rights instruments to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a State party (Pakistan);**

124.63 **Act on its commitment to dialogue and cooperation by timely submitting all treaty body reports, by accepting outstanding requests by special procedures to visit the country and by engaging actively with OHCHR to ensure compatibility of national legislation with its international treaty obligations (Hungary);**

124.64 **Submit the reports due according to CRC (Norway);**

124.65 **Cooperate with all the United Nations human rights mechanisms and engage with OHCHR (Poland);**

124.66 **Open cooperation channels with all United Nations human rights mechanisms and OHCHR (Argentina);**

124.67 **Strengthen cooperation with human rights mechanisms and engage with OHCHR, and avail itself of the Office's expertise, in order to demonstrate transparency and to adopt measures to better ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all (Sierra Leone);**

124.68 **Observe the principle of non-discrimination and the international human rights agreements to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party in its law and practice (Indonesia);**

124.69 **Take more active steps to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women (Angola);**

124.70 **Take immediate measures to ensure gender equality (Israel);**

124.71 **Continue its efforts in providing gender equal rights (Indonesia);**

124.72 **Consider further legislative and administrative measures to encourage the increase of women's participation in public life (Belarus);**

124.73 **Strengthen efforts to ensure women's representation in influential posts in national and regional government (Norway);**

124.74 **Empower women's participation in decision-making institutions (South Sudan);**

124.75 **Ensure women an equal treatment with respect to men, especially with regard to the rights to food, education and work (Italy);**

124.76 **Further develop measures to generate better conditions for the activities of organizations on the rights of women (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

124.77 **Consider putting a moratorium on capital punishment with the view to its ultimate abolishment (Namibia);**

124.78 **Introduce an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Slovakia);**

124.79 **Impose a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step to its abolition (Spain);**

124.80 **Impose an immediate moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

124.81 **Adopt a moratorium on executions, as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty, as previously recommended in the first cycle (Italy);**

124.82 **Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty and prohibit public executions, as a first step to abolition (Sierra Leone);**

124.83 **Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty and put an end to public executions (Turkey);**

124.84 **Apply a moratorium on the death penalty and make efforts to eliminate capital punishment in the judicial system (Ecuador);**

124.85 **Establish an official moratorium on executions (Belgium);**

124.86 **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition, ensure judicial proceedings with all international guarantees and abolish collective punishments (Costa Rica);**

124.87 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition and in the meantime immediately end public and extrajudicial executions (Lithuania);**

124.88 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its final abolition, withdraw the mandatory nature of the death sentence, publish detailed statistics on the death sentence and on executions (France);**

124.89 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards its complete abolition, and publish detailed statistics on death sentences and executions (Hungary);**

124.90 **Establish and implement an immediate moratorium on the imposition and execution of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

124.91 **Disclose detailed data on the use of the death penalty and the modalities of the executions (Italy);**

124.92 **Stop the practice of public executions and declare and implement an immediate moratorium on the imposition and execution of the death penalty, followed by concrete steps towards the complete abolition of the death penalty (Germany);**

124.93 **End the practice of arbitrary, public and private executions (Chile);**

124.94 **As long as the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea maintains the death penalty, respect minimum standards in that regard, Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 and the standing provisions of ICCPR (articles 6 and 14) as well as of CRC (article 37) (Belgium);**

124.95 **Prohibit the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as punishment for detainees (Spain);**

124.96 **Take measures to combat the use of torture and related acts (Botswana);**

124.97 **Take immediate steps to stop the use of torture and ill-treatment in all instances of deprivation of freedom (Slovakia);**

124.98 **Take immediate and transparent action to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment of all detainees, including forced hard labour and denial of food quotas (Sweden);**

124.99 **Conduct thorough investigation of cases of the use of torture and other forms of cruel treatment, in particular cases of violence against women in the penitentiary system (Russian Federation);**

124.100 **Immediately establish a system to prevent sexual violence against female prisoners (Ireland);**

124.101 **Ensure that all prisoners are provided with the minimum standards of humane treatment, in particular that they are not subject to torture or inhumane or degrading treatment such as forced hard labour or food quotas (New Zealand);**

124.102 **Make a list of persons in detention, provide access to the International Red Cross to prisons and review all cases of arbitrary arrest or confessions under torture, considering reparation for victims (Mexico);**

124.103 **To counter allegations of torture and ill-treatment in prison facilities, allow ICRC and other international observers to have immediate, full and genuine access to all detention facilities to ensure proper treatment of prisoners (Hungary);**

124.104 **Invite the Special Rapporteur and/or an international humanitarian organization recognized for its independence to visit "reform institutions" and other correctional and penitentiary institutions to assess/evaluate detention conditions with a view to proposing measures to improve these conditions so that they meet international norms and standards (Belgium);**

124.105 **Establish measures to combat discrimination and violence against women (France);**

124.106 **Enact national legislation to combat violence against women, including a definition of rape that applies to domestic rape and rape in detention centres (Canada);**

124.107 **Punish under law violence against women, establishing adequate measures to protect victims (Chile);**

124.108 **Bring an end to the practice of forced abortion (Canada);**

124.109 **Enhance measures to address the issues of trafficking and violence against women, especially through awareness programmes and by strengthening the institutional and legal framework (Sri Lanka);**

124.110 **Strengthen its national efforts in the area of combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including through human rights education and training for law enforcement officials (Egypt);**

124.111 **End forced labour (Chile);**

124.112 **Enact and implement legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Norway);**

124.113 **Further strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Namibia);**

124.114 **Enshrine fully the right to fair trial and due process guarantees (Israel);**

124.115 **Align its criminal justice system with its obligations under the ICCPR and other international human rights instruments (Australia);**

124.116 **Create a national mechanism for the review of complaints of the populations concerning human rights violations (Russian Federation);**

124.117 **Make efforts to achieve respect for all fundamental rights and freedoms of the entire population, especially women and children, and take all necessary measures to ensure the fight against impunity for the perpetrators of crimes, acts of violence and all human rights violations (Argentina);**

124.118 **Take all necessary measures to prevent or punish violations of human rights (Burundi);**

124.119 **Tackle impunity by investigating and timely prosecuting those responsible for acts of violence and human rights violations, in particular those committed by law enforcement and other authorities, and pay special attention to women and children to avoid that they are subjected to sexual abuse in detention (Ecuador);**

124.120 Make greater efforts to foster the law-abiding culture throughout the country (Viet Nam);

124.121 Continue building the social structure of the country, focusing on the promotion and protection of the family as the vital unit of the society (Uganda);

124.122 Provide more convenient living conditions to children without parents (South Sudan);

124.123 Remove restrictions on movement in and out of the capital and derogate Article 62 of the Penal Code, which prohibits leaving the country without State authorization, thereby removing all sanctions against those who decide to leave and to return to their country (Mexico);

124.124 Ensure free movement of all citizens and refrain from punishing those who return or are involuntarily returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from abroad (Czech Republic);

124.125 That steps be taken to further facilitate the easy travel of its citizens abroad (India);

124.126 Allow all religious believers to exercise their religion independently (Israel);

124.127 Reform legislation in the area of the rights of freedom of conscience and belief (Russian Federation);

124.128 Guarantee freedom of thought, conscience and religion to all individuals by ensuring the basic rights to freedom of assembly and association (Canada);

124.129 Enhance the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the right to manifest such individually or in community with others in public or private, in worship, observance, practice and teaching, in line with all the provisions under article 18 of ICCPR, to which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a State party (Namibia);

124.130 Increase measures to create conditions conducive for people to exercise freedom of expression (Indonesia);

124.131 End restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and related rights, as well as on movement (Botswana);

124.132 Allow the establishment of independent newspapers and other media; allow its citizens to access the Internet and the international media; and abolish compulsory indoctrination sessions (Australia);

124.133 Allow the establishment of independent newspapers and other social media, including free access to the internet (Israel);

124.134 Create a favourable environment for the activities of human rights defenders, journalists and other actors of civil society (Tunisia);

124.135 Open the information space in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea so that all its people have access to information of their choice and the possibility to impart it freely without fear of reprisals (Czech Republic);

124.136 Ensure free access of all its citizens to information in line with its international obligations under ICCPR (Slovakia);

124.137 **Appreciating the adoption of a series of laws on information access, take practical measures to ensure citizens' rights to free access to information (Myanmar);**

124.138 **Take practical measures to provide safer working conditions, suitable for its citizens (Nicaragua);**

124.139 **Ensure that government policy on access to food, healthcare and health services, including the Public Distribution System, is free of discrimination and political considerations (Austria);**

124.140 **Ensure the right to adequate food, including access to food, in a non-discriminatory manner, paying special attention to marginalized groups in its public distribution, in accordance with its international human rights obligations (Finland);**

124.141 **Ensure the right to food and other economic, social and cultural rights, without any kind of discrimination (Spain);**

124.142 **Ensure, protect and fulfil the right to an adequate standard of living, including the rights to adequate food on a non-discriminatory basis (Slovenia);**

124.143 **Ensure the right to food for its entire population without any restriction (Switzerland);**

124.144 **Allow reform of the food market in order to ensure adequate food production for its population (Greece);**

124.145 **Take the necessary measures in order for all the population to have access to food (Chile);**

124.146 **Fully prioritise fulfilling the right to food in its public spending, thus furthering recent improvements in the food situation (Norway);**

124.147 **Take immediate steps to allocate proper budgetary resources to ensure protection of the rights to food, health, water and sanitation (Ukraine);**

124.148 **Include more effective methods for the increase of food production, continue to make efforts for increased production of medical supplies and facilities (Cuba);**

124.149 **Increase budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector, so as to improve food security in its endeavours to further the protection and promotion of human rights of the Korean people (Mozambique);**

124.150 **Continue to consolidate socio-economic measures to minimize the gap between rural and urban areas (Angola);**

124.151 **Continue its efforts to fulfil the economic, social and cultural rights of all (Bangladesh);**

124.152 **Ensure equal access to social and economic rights for all citizens (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

124.153 **Continue its fight against poverty (Bangladesh);**

124.154 **Intensify efforts to develop poverty alleviation programmes with specific attention to empower marginalised and vulnerable groups within the society, such as children, women and the elderly (Sri Lanka);**

124.155 **Undertake profound legal reforms in accordance with international law, legalize and support free market activities that provide citizens with a**

livelihood, and release all prisoners detained for exercising private economic activities (Germany);

124.156 **Pay greater attention to the construction of sanitation facilities and housing constructions in rural areas (China);**

124.157 **Continue the efforts to ensure the right to adequate housing by continuing to implement plans for the construction and renovation of houses which are provided to the people free of charge (Syrian Arab Republic);**

124.158 **Make efforts to supply quality drinking water and provide adequate cultural facilities to the rural population (Turkmenistan);**

124.159 **Continue ensuring the right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all persons (Egypt);**

124.160 **Continue to make efforts to ensure the supply of quality drinking water to all of the population (South Sudan);**

124.161 **Increase access to food, healthcare, education, and adequate housing, throughout the country (Namibia);**

124.162 **Take further measures to improve access to basic health care, nutrition and education of children (India);**

124.163 **Take concrete measures to further improve hygiene and sanitation in all parts of the country (Kazakhstan);**

124.164 **Consider further increase in state expenditures on the health sector with a view to meeting the demand for medical supplies, including essential drugs (Belarus);**

124.165 **Continue to ensure effective functioning of the telemedicine system (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

124.166 **Take appropriate measures to effectively implement the Strategy for Health (2011-2015) and some other programmes on health (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.167 **Strengthen health-care services for its citizens through better training of the medical personnel, particularly in remote rural areas (Sudan);**

124.168 **Carry out a reproductive health strategy and other programmes for women's health with a view to reducing the maternal mortality rate as set out in the MDG (Turkmenistan);**

124.169 **Take concrete measures to improve health care for women to further decrease maternal mortality (Bangladesh);**

124.170 **Provide the necessary resources to the health system, in order to strengthen it, and especially in order to lower child and maternal mortality rates (Uruguay);**

124.171 **Continue actions to ensure that children in the most disadvantaged areas enjoy the same benefits in education and health enjoyed in urban areas (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

124.172 **Develop and implement more substantiated programmes and initiatives for the provision of enhanced level of the rights to education and health for all (Cuba);**

124.173 **Direct more attention and allocate more resources for the improvement of the quality of education (Bangladesh);**

124.174 **Take the necessary positive measures to modernize educational facilities with a view to successfully ensuring the enforcement of the 12-year education system (Belarus);**

124.175 **Improve further the general secondary education (Myanmar);**

124.176 **Introduce advanced teaching methods to improve quality education in the country and further promote cooperation with relevant international organizations and foreign countries in this regard (Ethiopia);**

124.177 **Faithfully implement the national action program for education for all by 2015 (Pakistan);**

124.178 **Continue to make efforts to ensure that children with disabilities and those without parents fully enjoy their right to health, education and other social and cultural rights (Sri Lanka);**

124.179 **Provide all means and resources to allow children with disabilities to enjoy the right to education and have access to sport activities (Egypt);**

124.180 **Continue to take measures for the sustainable economic, social and cultural development in the rural areas (Cuba);**

124.181 **Continue to promote economic, social and culture development to provide better conditions for the enjoyment of all rights by its people (China);**

124.182 **Intensify its efforts to promote economic development (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.183 **Strengthen measures to reinvigorate the national economy, including allowing more people-to-people contact through engagement in economic and commercial activities, including tourism (Malaysia);**

124.184 **Work with the international community to consider removing the sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea encouraging it to meaningfully promote and protect human rights in its country (Uganda);**

124.185 **Share with others the country's experiences in disaster risk management (Nicaragua).**

125. **The following recommendations did not enjoy the support of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and would thus be noted:**

125.1 **Prioritize the need to become party to the following important human rights treaties, namely: ICERD; CAT and OP-CAT; ICRMW; and the Rome Statute, taking into account the fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has already acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in 1989 (Ghana);**

125.2 **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court (Netherlands);**

125.3 **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute (Montenegro);**

125.4 **Accede and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

125.5 **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC in investigations and prosecutions and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Sweden);**

125.6 **Ratify the Rome Statute and cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court in order, inter alia, to hold to account those responsible for crimes against humanity (Greece);**

125.7 **Ratify the Rome Statute and fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

125.8 **Adopt precise definitions of anti-State crimes, anti-Peoples crimes or crimes representing an offence against the management of the economy in the criminal code and in the criminal procedure code (Belgium);**

125.9 **Amend the Penal and Criminal Code to abolish generic crimes such as "activities against the State or society" (Spain);**

125.10 **Eliminate from the Criminal Code the crime of guilt by association (France);**

125.11 **Incorporate structural reforms that allow the separation of powers, establishing conditions for an independent judiciary, a multiparty political system and a National Assembly that reflects the interests of citizens at national, regional and local levels (Spain);**

125.12 **Consider constructively the recommendations made during this UPR and made by the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (COI) (Italy);**

125.13 **Cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular COIs of the Human Rights Council (Costa Rica);**

125.14 **Acknowledge the existence of human rights violations taking place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and act immediately on the recommendations of the COI (New Zealand);**

125.15 **Implement the COI's recommendations, including those on denial of due process, reform of the prison system, abolition of the death penalty and return of abductees to their homelands (Australia);**

125.16 **Implement the recommendations of the COI (Latvia);**

125.17 **Study and start implementing the recommendations included in the report of the COI (Estonia);**

125.18 **Accept and faithfully implement the recommendations of the COI, especially those contained in the Human Rights Council's resolution (Republic of Korea);**

125.19 **Heed the calls of the COI and Human Rights Council resolution 25/25 to end human rights violations, in particular, those that amount to crimes against humanity, and bring perpetrators to justice (Germany);**

125.20 **Acknowledge the human rights violations in the country and take steps to end such violations and abuses by implementing the recommendations in the COI's final report and cooperating with the Special Rapporteur and OHCHR (United States of America);**

125.21 **Put an immediate end to human rights violations documented in the report of the COI, many of which constitute, in the view of the report, crimes against humanity (France);**

125.22 **Take measures to put an end to all human rights violations, including those associated with political prison camps and abduction, as recommended in the COI report and the Human Rights Council resolution adopted as the result of the consideration of that report (Japan);**

125.23 **Take immediate steps to put an end to violations of human rights, namely by implementing the recommendations of the report of the COI, established by the Human Rights Council (Portugal);**

125.24 **Implement the recommendations in the report of the COI (Slovenia);**

125.25 **Take immediate measures to end the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations described in the report of the COI – including violations of the freedoms of thought, expression and religion; multiple forms of discrimination; violations of the freedom of movement and residence; violations of the right to food; arbitrary detention, torture and executions; and abductions and enforced disappearances from other countries (Iceland);**

125.26 **Allow independent human rights monitors to visit the country, cooperate with special procedures and start an open debate, both domestically and at international level, on the findings of the COI (Czech Republic);**

125.27 **Cooperate fully with the COI as well as with the United Nations special procedures and with the humanitarian international organizations (Portugal);**

125.28 **Extend an open invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and within the framework of this cooperation, allow the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to visit the country (Uruguay);**

125.29 **Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in this country and the COI (Ukraine);**

125.30 **Cooperate fully with the United Nations, the Human Rights Council and the special rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and allow access by the latter to the country (Greece);**

125.31 **Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, in particular to allow him immediate and unrestricted access to the country, camps of ordinary prisoners and political prisoners, and implement the recommendations of the COI (Switzerland);**

125.32 **Cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other United Nations human rights mechanisms and grant them unrestricted access to the country (Lithuania);**

125.33 **Grant access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and accept technical cooperation from United Nations human rights mechanisms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

125.34 **Grant access for the special rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Sweden);**

125.35 **Grant free and unfettered access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to all special procedures mandate-holders (France);**

125.36 **Recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issue an invitation to him to visit the country, and permit him to work unhindered (Austria);**

125.37 **Cooperate fully with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Romania);**

125.38 **Fully cooperate with all the United Nations human rights mechanisms and special procedures, particularly the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and engage with OHCHR (Brazil);**

125.39 **Respond favourably to the request of special procedures mandate holders to enter the whole country, and fully cooperate with special procedures and other human rights mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Slovenia);**

125.40 **End State-sponsored discrimination based on the "*songbun*" system, as well as pervasive discrimination against women (United States of America);**

125.41 **Take immediate measures to end discrimination against its citizens for the alleged sins of their grandparents under the *songbun* system; ensure gender equality in practice; and address violence against women and girls (Australia);**

125.42 **Abolish all unconstitutional discriminatory practices connected with the *songbun* system and terminate the punishment based on collective guilt (Czech Republic);**

125.43 **End discrimination against citizens on the basis of the so-called "core", "wavering" and "hostile" social classes and of political connections (Canada);**

125.44 **Abolish the death penalty and terminate public executions (Greece);**

125.45 **Cease the institutionalized policy of executions and disappearances described in the reports of the Special Rapporteur (Spain);**

125.46 **Provide the families of those abducted with full information on their fate and whereabouts (Greece);**

125.47 **Provide all families of all abducted persons with full information on their fate and whereabouts and allow the abductees and their descendants to return immediately to their countries of origin (Hungary);**

125.48 **Address seriously the issues of abductees, prisoners of war and separated families (Republic of Korea);**

125.49 **Set a specific timeframe and take concrete action to resolve the issue of abductions as soon as possible, including by repatriating the abductees (Japan);**

125.50 **Allow all persons of foreign origin who have been abducted, as well as their descendants, to return freely to their countries of origin (Slovakia);**

125.51 Make the necessary efforts to repatriate foreigners who were forcibly held in the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and provide all information to the authorities and relatives about the whereabouts of these persons (Mexico);

125.52 End the kidnapping of persons, whatever their country of origin may be (Chile);

125.53 Take immediate steps to end the use of torture and other ill-treatment of detainees in political prison camps, including forced labour and denial of food quotas (Lithuania);

125.54 Close all political prison camps immediately (Canada);

125.55 Close down the political prison camps and release all political prisoners (Greece);

125.56 Close immediately all political prison camps and unconditionally release all political prisoners detained (Lithuania);

125.57 Close down all camps where prisoners of conscience are held and release unconditionally all political prisoners (Czech Republic);

125.58 Close down immediately all political prison camps and labour camps and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives that have been held on the basis of "guilt by association" (Slovenia);

125.59 Close political prison camps, eliminate discrimination based on the "*songbun*" system and cooperate with human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Republic of Korea);

125.60 Immediately close down all political prison camps, and release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives being held on the basis of guilt-by-association (Austria);

125.61 Immediately close down all political prison camps and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives being held on the basis of "guilt-by-association" (Sweden);

125.62 Proceed to the immediate closure of prisoner camps (Spain);

125.63 Immediately close concentration camps for political prisoners (*kwan-li-so*) and release all political prisoners (France);

125.64 Immediately dismantle all political prison camps, release all political prisoners, and institute protections against arbitrary detention that guarantee due process and fair trial (United States of America);

125.65 Immediately dismantle all political prison camps and abolish the practice of forced labour (Germany);

125.66 Acknowledge the existence of human rights violations, including political prison camps, dismantle them and release all prisoners (Israel);

125.67 Acknowledge the existence of political prison camps, and take immediate steps to close them (New Zealand);

125.68 Acknowledge the existence of human rights violations, including those in facilities which it describes as "reform through labour camps", and provide international humanitarian organisations with immediate access to these facilities and their victims; dismantle all camps and release all political

prisoners; and clarify with full detail the fate of any disappeared persons who cannot be readily traced (Netherlands);

125.69 **Put an end to the practice of people detained in prisoner camps, closing political prisoner camps and promoting the necessary reforms in the judicial system to ensure fair trial and respect for due process guarantees (Argentina);**

125.70 **Abolish its political prison camps, where grave human rights violations are ongoing, and release all political prisoners (Japan);**

125.71 **Provide international humanitarian organisations and human rights monitors access to the camps and their surviving victims (Israel);**

125.72 **Provide international humanitarian organizations and human rights monitors with immediate access to the prison camps and their surviving victims (Austria);**

125.73 **Guarantee international humanitarian organizations and human rights monitors immediate access to political prisons and other camps, as well as to their surviving victims, in order to provide primary care (Estonia);**

125.74 **Provide international humanitarian organisations with immediate, free and unimpeded access to all populations in need, including those held in labour camps or political prison camps (Ireland);**

125.75 **Ensure access of the International Humanitarian Organization to the prison camps and to other detention centers (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

125.76 **Provide a fair public trial to all political prisoners and prohibit and penalize torture in the detention centers (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

125.77 **Prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of human rights and ratify the Rome Statute (Switzerland);**

125.78 **Hold those responsible for grave, widespread and systematic violations of human rights, including crimes against humanity, accountable for their depraved actions (Canada);**

125.79 **End immediately reprisals against persons on the basis of "guilt by association" and the collective punishment of families of convicted criminals (Germany);**

125.80 **Dismantle the "*inminban*" neighbourhood watches, and citizen registration and denunciation systems (Canada);**

125.81 **Make all the necessary political reforms in order to ensure the emergence of a government through free and fair elections (Greece);**

125.82 **Guarantee the right to food for its citizens on an equal basis and put an end to discriminatory food rationing as a tool to control and exert pressure on its people (Czech Republic);**

125.83 **Stop violating the right to food and using starvation, hunger and malnutrition as a means to ensure its control over the population (Greece).**

126. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was headed by H.E. So Se Pyong, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mission in Geneva and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Ri Kyung Hun, Director, Legislation Department, Supreme People's Assembly;
- Mr. Kim Myong Chol Councillor, Supreme People's Assembly;
- Mr. Pak Su Jong, Councillor, Supreme Court;
- Mr. Choe Myong Nam, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Ju Yong Chol, Senior Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Kim Sun Hwa, Desk-Officer, Supreme People's Assembly;
- Ms. Han Chae Sun, Section Chief, Ministry of Public Health;
- Mr. Kim Chang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mission in Geneva;
- Mr. Kim Yong Ho, Counsellor, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mission in Geneva;
- Mr. Jo Chol Su, First Secretary, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mission in Geneva;
- Mr. Kim Myong Hyok, Second Secretary, Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mission in Geneva.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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1. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regards the UPR as an important and effective mechanism for reviewing the human rights situation of all countries in impartial and objective manner as well as for facilitating the protection and promotion of human rights throughout the world.

2. Proceeding from this perspective, the DPRK respects the UPR mechanism and sincerely took part in its first review in December 2009, followed by its participation in the second UPR in May 2014. The DPRK, in the light of its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, gave serious consideration to the comments made by many countries during its second review.

3. Of 268 recommendations received during the review, the DPRK rejected 83 recommendations on the ground as they seriously distorted the reality of and slandered the country driven by sinister political motivation. It stated that it would, in accordance with UPR procedure, examine 185 remaining recommendations and give its view on them in due time.

4. The DPRK Government, with a sincere attitude, carefully reviewed the recommendations in broad consultations with relevant national institutions and organizations.

5. As a result, out of 185 recommendations, the DPRK decided to accept 113 recommendations. Most of the elements in these recommendations are already being implemented or concrete measures shall be followed for their implementation in the future.

6. The DPRK decided to partially accept 4 recommendations. For instance, recommendations such as 124.7 contain elements not acceptable; however, it decided to accept other elements contained therein such as ratification of the CRPD proceeding from its position to respect views of those countries that made these recommendations and in the hope that deepening the understanding of the DPRK would help to remove the prejudiced misunderstanding in the future.

7. The DPRK decided to take note of 58 recommendations. At this stage, the circumstances or environment of the country do not allow taking action on these recommendations, however, continued efforts will be made to look into the possibility of their implementation in the future. Some issues mentioned in the recommendations including 124.98, 124.108, 124.124, 124.139 do not exist in the DPRK at all, however, it decided to take note of them with a view to directing continuous efforts to prevent the occurrence of such phenomena.

8. The DPRK decided not to accept 10 recommendations, as they are incompatible with the social system and domestic law of the DPRK. Moreover, some recommendations like 124.93, 124.123 are either untrue or based on distortion and fabrications of the true picture of the DPRK for the purpose of impairing its image; therefore, it rejects these recommendations.

9. The DPRK is fully committed to make further efforts for the contribution of maintaining and promoting sincere and constructive dialogue and cooperation among countries through UPR mechanism on the basis of respect for sovereignty and equality. And it will continue to fulfill faithfully its obligation in the international field of human rights.

10. The DPRK position on the recommendations made during its second UPR are as follows:

(a) Recommendations that enjoy the support of the Government of the DPRK;

124.1, 124.2, 124.3, 124.15, 124.16, 124.17, 124.18, 124.20, 124.21, 124.27, 124.28, 124.29, 124.30, 124.31, 124.32, 124.33, 124.34, 124.35, 124.36, 124.37, 124.38, 124.39,

124.40, 124.41, 124.42, 124.43, 124.44, 124.45, 124.46, 124.47, 124.48, 124.50, 124.51, 124.52, 124.53, 124.55, 124.56, 124.57, 124.61, 124.62, 124.64, 124.65, 124.66, 124.68, 124.69, 124.70, 124.71, 124.72, 124.73, 124.74, 124.75,124.76, 124.105, 124.107, 124.110, 124.112, 124.113, 124.114, 124.116, 124.117, 124.118, 124.120, 124.121, 124.122, 124.125, 124.126, 124.128, 124.130, 124.137, 124.138, 124.141, 124.142, 124.143, 124.145, 124.146, 124.147, 124.148, 124.149, 124.150, 124.151, 124.152, 124.153, 124.154, 124.156, 124.157, 124.158, 124.159, 124.160, 124.161, 124.162, 124.163, 124.164, 124.165, 124.166, 124.167, 124.168, 124.169, 124.170, 124.171, 124.172, 124.173, 124.174, 124.175, 124.176, 124.177, 124.178, 124.179, 124.180, 124.181, 124.182, 124.183, 124.184, 124.185.

(b) Recommendations that have been partially accepted by the Government of the DPRK;

124.7, 124.63, 124.67, 124.115.

(c) Recommendations that have been noted by the Government of the DPRK;

124.4, 124.5, 124.6, 124.8, 124.9, 124.10, 124.11, 124.12, 124.13, 124.14, 124.19, 124.22, 124.23, 124.24, 124.25, 124.26, 124.49, 124.54, 124.58, 124.59, 124.60, 124.77, 124.78, 124.79, 124.80, 124.81, 124.82, 124.83, 124.84, 124.85, 124.86, 124.87, 124.88, 124.89, 124.90, 124.92, 124.94, 124.95, 124.96, 124.97, 124.98, 124.99, 124.100, 124.101, 124.106, 124.108, 124.109, 124.111, 124.119, 124.124, 124.127, 124.129, 124.133, 124.134. 124.135, 124.136, 124.139, 124.140.

(d) Recommendations that do not enjoy the support of the Government of the DPRK.

124.91, 124.93, 124.102, 124.103, 124.104, 124.123, 124.131, 124.132, 124.144, 124.155.

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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Brunei Darussalam

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Brunei Darussalam was held at the 9th meeting on 2 May 2014. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was headed by Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. At its 14th meeting held on 6 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Brunei Darussalam.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Brunei Darussalam: Morocco, Romania and Saudi Arabia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Brunei Darussalam:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BRN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BRN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BRN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Brunei Darussalam through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was honoured to once again engage with the Working Group for the second cycle of the UPR. It referred to its report which highlighted Brunei Darussalam's ongoing work to improve the welfare of its people and to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The report also included its responses to the 33 recommendations made during the first cycle.

6. The delegation reiterated that the core policy of His Majesty's Government was to be people-centred in all aspects, in terms of material as well as spiritual needs. The people of Brunei Darussalam enjoyed living in a peaceful and harmonious environment, the hallmark of the 30 years of its full independence, which would continue as the State strived to realize by 2035, its National Vision of being a nation with highly educated, skilled and successful citizens, who will attain a high quality of life in a dynamic and sustainable economy.

7. His Majesty's deep dedication towards the welfare of his people ensured the provision of a first-class education system; quality health services, as well as adequate

housing. Citizens and residents alike continued to enjoy the generous subsidies granted by the Government for several essential commodities such as fuel, gas, water, rice and sugar.

8. Education remained one of the top priorities, accounting for nearly 13 per cent of the national budget. The provision of free, quality education from early childhood to tertiary-level, equally accessible to both boys and girls, was further enhanced. Scholarships to study in the country and abroad were granted to eligible students. Brunei Darussalam had attained one of the highest literacy rates in the region. Technical and vocational qualification opportunities were provided for its people to acquire the necessary skills to increase their competitiveness and improve their self-development. Its efforts were in line with the Education for All goals of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the country ranked 34 out of 127 countries in the organization's most recent development index. Brunei Darussalam had also worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNESCO to complement its legislation on the nine-year compulsory education currently in place through enhancing the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme.

9. The delegation highlighted that as Brunei Darussalam was a small nation, the health of its people was vital to its development. His Majesty's Government therefore placed great importance on the provision of a comprehensive health care system. Free medical health care was provided for citizens. The delegation was proud that Brunei Darussalam had achieved many of the targets set by the World Health Organization.

10. The Government had adopted an environmental policy direction and strategies in implementing its National Development Plan for a healthy environment. The delegation was pleased that one of the country's most valuable assets was its clean air. Brunei Darussalam was home to well-preserved, pristine rainforests with a rich biodiversity, its national pride for future generations. Together with the international community, it shared the responsibility to save the Earth from global warming. It also cooperated with Malaysia and Indonesia in the Heart of Borneo project, whereby about 58 per cent of the island's land mass has been protected in an effort to preserving the planet.

11. The delegation stated that His Majesty's strong commitment to his people was apparent in good times and in times of need. His Majesty's continuous concern for the well-being of his people was demonstrated during the flash floods in some parts of the country, in early 2014, when His Majesty personally visited the affected areas to ensure that the authorities had responded immediately and efficiently to secure the safety of those concerned. Also, a considerable amount of resources had been allocated to relief and repair efforts and a budget of about US$55 million had been earmarked for flood mitigation measures.

12. Those were just some of the efforts Brunei Darussalam had made in promoting and protecting the bigger aspects of human rights, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. It had achieved almost all of the targets set, especially in eradicating extreme poverty. The country ranked 30 out of 187 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2013. It would continue to strive towards accelerating development and looked forward to supporting the post-2015 development agenda.

13. The delegation highlighted the efforts of His Majesty's Government in protecting vulnerable groups in the country. A number of measures had been put in place, such as introducing new legislation, amending existing ones and setting up special committees to further ensure their rights, included the adoption of the Children and Young Persons Act, which led to the establishment in 2010 of a juvenile justice system aimed at ensuring appropriate judicial procedures for young offenders.

14. Support was provided for less privileged children through benefits, proper care and guidance. Several welfare programmes had been initiated, including the provision of shelter homes; an education allowance; as well as various funds for orphans, such as the Crown Prince Fund for Orphans.

15. Women constituted over half of the country's workforce and had actively contributed to the development of the country as well as the maintenance of peace and security. An increasing number of women held professional posts in various fields, and many of them had attained high-level positions in the public and private sectors, such as Ambassador-at-Large, Attorney General, Deputy Minister, members of the Legislative Council, senior officials in Ministries and entrepreneurs, to name but a few. The Government's commitment to promoting gender equality was clearly evident in its national policies that were applicable to all community sectors. As a result, it had reached a remarkable literacy rate of over 95 per cent for girls. In 2013, the Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum placed Brunei Darussalam in 6th place in terms of estimated earned income; 12th place in terms of enrolment in tertiary education; and 17th place for wage equality. The rights of women were further protected through legislation such as the Islamic Family Law Act and the Married Women Act.

16. The welfare of the elderly population continued to be safeguarded through strong family and cultural values. In addition to care by their families, the elderly also benefitted from a significant social safety net in the form of a monthly pension for all citizens and permanent residents who had reached the age of 60. This pension was non-contributory and non-means-tested.

17. The Government continued to protect the rights of persons with disabilities through various efforts, including the provision of monthly allowances, which were also supported and complemented by various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with the welfare of persons with specific disabilities.

18. Brunei Darussalam, as a monarchy and an Islamic State, continued to uphold the institution of the family as the dominant aspect of its culture. The concept of the large extended family had long been established and constituted the social safety net. In 2012, the first Sunday in May was declared National Family Day to commemorate the importance of the family unit. Brunei Darussalam was a close-knit society that was distinctly communal and cohesive. Festive occasions such as Eid, Chinese New Year and Christmas were celebrated by all members of the diverse community. Relatives and friends exchanged visits, good wishes and gifts, which encouraged tolerance among the ethnic and religious groups.

19. Religious tolerance and understanding were very important. Brunei Darussalam became a member of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends in 2012 and participated in several inter-faith dialogues.

20. Under the Constitution, Islam was the official religion of Brunei Darussalam, and its values and teachings continued to be the way of life for its people. As such, the activities of the society revolved around its Malay culture and Islamic faith. Non-Muslims may practise their religions in peace and harmony, as provided for in the Constitution. Sharia law had been in existence in Brunei Darussalam since the reign of the first monarch in the 14th century. The objective of sharia law was to create a society where religion, life, intellect, property and lineage were preserved and protected. As an Islamic nation with a strong sense of responsibility, in 2013, Brunei Darussalam introduced the Sharia Penal Code Order, which would be applied in parallel with the existing civil law. The Order would come into effect in phases.

21. Brunei Darussalam held the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2013, with the theme "Our People, Our Future Together", and

initiated the implementation of the 2012 ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, including the publication of a book on the Declaration and its translation into all the ASEAN languages. Furthermore, the 23rd ASEAN Summit, held in October 2013, adopted the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children and the Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection. Brunei Darussalam continued to support the work of the relevant ASEAN bodies related to human rights. The progress made by ASEAN over the past year demonstrated Brunei Darussalam's commitment to working together with its neighbours and partners, especially in the field of human rights.

22. The delegation reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's commitment to its international obligations and indicated that Brunei Darussalam would be ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the near future. In 2012, Brunei Darussalam submitted its combined initial and second periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its combined second and third periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2013. The delegation stated that Brunei intended to withdraw its reservations to Article 20, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) relating to the protection of a child without a family, and Article 21 (a) on adoption, and that it was working towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC). Furthermore, in support of global efforts towards abolishing child labour and as recommended during the first UPR cycle, in 2011, it ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention (No. 138).

23. Brunei Darussalam appreciated the values of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and cooperation and would continue to welcome technical assistance from international partners and, at the same time, play its part in providing assistance, including financial support, capacity-building and technical cooperation, through various means, such as the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the Enrichment Projects for ASEAN. Brunei Darussalam offered scholarships to foreign students to pursue higher-level education in its various academic institutions; to date, nearly 400 scholarships had been awarded to students from over 63 countries. It also actively contributed to the initiatives of several United Nations bodies such as World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UN-Women and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Brunei would continue to lend its support in the best way it could.

24. The delegation further highlighted that, being a small State of 400,000 people, Brunei Darussalam had very limited human resources and would appreciate assistance with capacity-building from international organizations.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic commended the importance attached in national programmes to preservation of the family as a core unit of society as well as action in support of the advancement of women, as evidenced by their election to the Legislative Council.

27. Thailand commended Brunei Darussalam's progress towards ratification of CRPD and the provision of equal education opportunities. It acknowledged women's representation in the Legislative Council and the Government's promotion of women's rights through the ASEAN Committee on Women and gender equality programmes.

28. Timor-Leste took note of the positive steps undertaken by Brunei Darussalam to implement the recommendations of the first UPR. It commended progress made in education, health and women's rights.

29. Tunisia commended Brunei Darussalam for combating discrimination and violence against women and adopting actions plans on women, persons with disabilities and child protection. It encouraged Brunei Darussalam to modify the law on nationality to ensure gender equality and to provide a climate propitious to the activities of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society.

30. Turkey commended Brunei Darussalam's participation in regional and global human rights work and its transparent approach to technical cooperation in its human rights and development endeavours.

31. Ukraine noted with appreciation Brunei Darussalam's efforts to protect cultural rights through the ratification of UNESCO conventions. Ukraine asked how the Sharia Penal Code would be applied to non-Muslims.

32. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the establishment of the Heads of Specialist Trafficking Unit and the Human Trafficking Investigation Unit. It commended the increased inter-agency capacity-building coordination and the appeals for technical assistance in the fight against trafficking.

33. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed Brunei Darussalam's progress on social and economic rights and its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievements. It urged the Government to suspend the state of emergency and to ensure that the Sharia Penal Code did not violate rights to freedom of religion.

34. The United States of America acknowledged Brunei Darussalam's commitment to the rights of children and gender equality. It was concerned that the 2013 Sharia Penal Code would undermine Brunei Darussalam's international human rights commitments; trade unions could be refused registration; and migrant workers remained vulnerable to forced labour.

35. Uruguay welcomed Brunei Darussalam's MDG achievements, particularly in education, health and infant mortality. It noted the introduction of legislation to prevent crime and promote human rights.

36. Uzbekistan commended measures taken by Brunei Darussalam to implement the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and the adoption of the National Development Plan to strengthen the family, women's and children's rights and juvenile justice.

37. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) noted the progress made by Brunei Darussalam in implementing the UPR recommendations; its ratification of ILO Convention No. 138 to abolish child labour; the introduction of the National Development Plan; its MDG achievements; and improvements in social protection and equality.

38. Viet Nam appreciated the adoption of the Brunei Vision 2035, which provided a foundation for the protection and promotion of human rights; Brunei Darussalam's contribution to regional and international human rights cooperation; its implementation of the UPR recommendations on women's and children's rights, education and health care.

39. Yemen commended Brunei Darussalam's steady progress towards achievement of the MDGs through the implementation of social safety net programmes; provision of equal educational opportunities; and safeguarding of the environment and natural resources.

40. Afghanistan believed that children should be involved in development and noted, with satisfaction, Brunei Darussalam's public-awareness and probation campaigns and

community services for child offenders. It commended the withdrawal of reservations to the CRC.

41. Albania welcomed Brunei Darussalam's legislation on the rights of women and children, the family, employment and education, and commended the implementation of the plan of action on women and the family, which covered children's rights.

42. Algeria welcomed the importance accorded by Brunei Darussalam to social and family issues and commended the progress made in economic, social and cultural rights. It noted the legislative reforms introduced to strengthen human rights for children and married women and the 2009 decree on employment.

43. Argentina commended Brunei Darussalam for its 10th National Development Plan (2012–2017).

44. Armenia noted positive changes in Brunei Darussalam's protection of human rights, promotion of education, strengthening of services through building schools and infrastructure, and protection of vulnerable women through employment and capacity-building. It noted that Brunei Darussalam had not ratified a number of human rights instruments.

45. Australia commended Brunei Darussalam for its commitment to health care and education. It was concerned about the impact of the Sharia Penal Code on religious freedom, the status of women, treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons and resumption of the death penalty.

46. Azerbaijan welcomed Brunei Darussalam's follow-up to recommendations from the previous UPR and its progress in health and education. It appreciated the institutional reform that addressed poverty, crime, the family, women and persons with disabilities and its progress in anti-trafficking law enforcement.

47. Bahrain welcomed the adoption of the National Development Plan (2012–2017) and commended the provision of free medical and health care to all citizens, including vaccination programmes and antenatal screenings for children and women.

48. Bangladesh noted Brunei Darussalam's progress in education, health care, housing and human development and its positive impact on human rights. It noted that Brunei Darussalam had an impressive record in promoting the institution of the family, but that it was not party to some core human rights treaties.

49. Belarus commended the withdrawal of Brunei Darussalam's reservations to the CRC and the amendments to the Penal Code aimed at curbing commercial sexual exploitation of children and enabling the prosecution of a wider range of sexual offences.

50. Spain noted Brunei Darussalam's introduction of legislation to combat gender-based violence, but was concerned by the criminalization of same-sex sexual relations. It noted gaps in the legislation to combat prostitution of minors and that the Islamic Penal Code was incompatible with international human rights legislation.

51. Bhutan congratulated Brunei Darussalam for its implementation of recommendations from the previous UPR cycle and the efforts made to promote human rights and to include women in decision-making.

52. Brazil welcomed Brunei Darussalam's awareness-raising campaigns against child abuse and the establishment of an action team on child protection. However, its progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals had not been matched by improvements in civil and political rights.

53. Burkina Faso noted progress made since the first UPR cycle. It encouraged Brunei Darussalam to continue with its implementation of the 10th National Development Plan

2012–2017; its collaboration with human rights NGOs; the formulation of laws and the implementation of programmes.

54. Cambodia commended Brunei Darussalam's commitment to strengthening democracy and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the rights of children and the rights to education, health care and economic opportunities.

55. Canada asked how Brunei Darussalam would meet its international human rights obligations which were in conflict with the Sharia Penal Code, particularly on women's rights. It welcomed steps to prevent human trafficking and child exploitation and improve law enforcement.

56. Chad noted efforts to protect social, economic and cultural rights. It commended the adoption of the 10th National Development Plan 2012–2017 and noted the progress made towards attaining the MDGs and development of legislation on children's rights.

57. China commended efforts made to implement the 10th National Development Plan and the focus on improving education, health care and women's and children's rights protection. It appreciated progress in combating human trafficking and the commitments to promoting multireligious and multicultural harmony.

58. Costa Rica commended Brunei Darussalam's cooperation with human rights mechanisms, the ratification of international instruments and improved access to and quality of education and health care. It expressed concern regarding the use of corporal punishment against children, stating that it should stop.

59. Cuba acknowledged the steps to protect citizens' economic, social and cultural rights and eliminate poverty and illiteracy. It welcomed free education and health services, and efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

60. The Czech Republic noted deficiencies in the laws and practices pertaining to the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

61. Djibouti commended Brunei Darussalam on the quality of its national report, which reflected its commitment to human rights.

62. Egypt invited Brunei Darussalam to share its views on best practices and major challenges relating to the implementation of integrated pro-family policies and measures to protect and support the family as the fundamental unit of society.

63. France expressed serious concern regarding the adoption of the Sharia Penal Code Order and the consequences that it may have on the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

64. Germany acknowledged the success of Brunei Darussalam in advancing the social and economic development of the country.

65. Ghana welcomed Brunei Darussalam's commitment to the UPR process and applauded the country's concern for the rights of older persons.

66. India commended the implementation of the 10th National Development Plan 2012-2017, attainment of the MDGs and progress towards universal health and education. It welcomed efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups and encouraged Brunei Darussalam to review the changes to its criminal law which impacted the freedom of religious minorities.

67. Indonesia commended the Brunei Vision 2035, which demonstrated its commitment to the development of its citizens and to human rights, both regionally and internationally. It recognized the efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

68. Iraq noted the Government's achievements in the areas of education and health care, and the enhancement of the well-being of children and older persons.

69. Ireland expressed concern at the amendments to the Penal Code which prescribed the death penalty for a wide range of offences. While welcoming the achievement of high office by women, it stressed the need for improvements in the protection of women's rights.

70. Iran (Islamic Republic of) highlighted the efforts by Brunei Darussalam to improve the situation of women and children through the establishment of the Special Committee and the Plan of Action on Family Institution and Women.

71. Italy noted strengthened protection of children from sexual exploitation, but expressed concern regarding the Sharia Penal Code Order and restrictions on freedom of expression. It noted that Brunei Darussalam had not yet acceded to several international instruments.

72. Japan thanked Brunei Darussalam for explaining its position on sharia law. It commended measures taken towards acceding to treaties it had not yet ratified; the appointment of women to government posts; the submission of reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and improved social security for women during maternity.

73. Jordan highly appreciated the enactment of the Children and Young Persons Act, the adoption of the Workplace Safety and Health Order and the establishment of the Special Committee on Family Institution and Women.

74. Kazakhstan acknowledged the measures to improve human rights, including the provision of housing, health care and education. It called for universal education, especially for vulnerable social groups and noted the efforts to secure freedom of religion.

75. Kuwait commended the methodical approach adopted by Brunei Darussalam in preparing its report, and its commitment to strengthening human rights.

76. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted Brunei Darussalam's accession to international conventions and its development of national instruments. It welcomed the progress made towards achieving the MDGs and encouraged safeguarding the rights of children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and improving access to health care and education.

77. Morocco welcomed the adoption of the Children and Young Persons Act, the amendment of the Penal Code to further protect the young and vulnerable from sexual exploitation, and the adoption of legal provisions to protect migrant workers.

78. Malaysia appreciated the progress made since the first UPR and congratulated the country on attaining the MDGs and on progress made regarding the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities through the implementation of legislation.

79. Maldives commended Brunei Darussalam's engagement in the UPR process, its commitment to improving its citizens' living conditions and the progress made towards attaining the MDGs. It encouraged the international community to assist the country in overcoming challenges.

80. Mauritania noted the emphasis placed on promoting human rights by ensuring basic standards of health care, education, food, housing and welfare. It commended the holding of an Awareness Forum on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the signing of CRPD.

81. Mexico noted that the ratification of the conventions on statelessness would support efforts to regularize the situation of stateless persons. It called on Brunei Darussalam to extend invitations to all United Nations specialized agencies to visit the country.

82. Montenegro enquired about what accounted for the lack of cooperation with United Nations treaty bodies and whether there were plans to ratify core international instruments and improve cooperation. It requested information on the UNESCO recommendation regarding freedom of expression.

83. Libya noted the establishment of the Special Committee on Family Institution and Women and the Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly. It commended action to improve education and health care and to promote awareness of human rights.

84. Myanmar thanked Brunei Darussalam for its presentation. It welcomed its active participation in the UPR process and in other regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

85. The Netherlands commended the country for ensuring access to education and health care. It was concerned by legal provisions criminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults and the proposed introduction of the death penalty in the Penal Code.

86. Nicaragua commended legislative reforms to protect human rights, progress regarding protection of children and women and efforts to create greater opportunities for its citizens through the implementation of the National Development Plan.

87. Oman commended Brunei Darussalam's MDG achievements, particularly with regard to women, children and persons with disabilities. It noted that a Human Resource Development Fund had been established to provide young people with training opportunities.

88. Pakistan commended the consultative process adopted to prepare the report, the establishment of the inter-agency consultative mechanism and the inclusion of women in the Legislative Council. It appreciated the country's commitment to human rights.

89. The Philippines commended Brunei Darussalam on promoting education for all; strengthening legislation on human trafficking; withdrawing reservations to CRC; making progress towards ratification of OP-CRC-AC and guaranteeing migrant rights under labour law.

90. Portugal welcomed efforts to enhance human rights, particularly through the inter-agency consultative mechanism. It asked what measures were envisaged to prevent children's statelessness, since under the Brunei Nationality Act, mothers could not confer their nationality to their children.

91. Oman commended Brunei Darussalam's MDG achievements, particularly on behalf of women, children and persons with disabilities. It noted that a Human Resource Development Fund had been established to provide young people with training opportunities.

92. The Republic of Korea appreciated the measures to combat human trafficking and the steps taken to naturalize stateless persons. It felt that ratification of key international instruments would improve the human rights situation and that civil society organizations should be promoted.

93. Romania welcomed the progress made since the previous UPR cycle. It commended the progress in ensuring the rights to education, health and social security.

94. The Russian Federation highlighted the importance of gender equality and the promotion of women's rights for national development, in line with the Brunei Vision 2035. It noted the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council.

95. Saudi Arabia commended the establishment of Special Committees on poverty, crime prevention, women, older people and persons with disabilities, and noted that women

were members of the Legislative Council. It welcomed the adoption of the Sharia Penal Code Order and the Children and Young Persons Act.

96. Sierra Leone welcomed the steps taken towards attaining the MDGs. It asked whether non-Muslims would be accountable under the new Sharia Penal Code provisions and whether the country had met its gross national income target for overseas development assistance.

97. Singapore noted the progress made in promoting access to health care and education for all through the implementation of the National Development Plan 2012-2017. It lauded the focus on social harmony in the Brunei Vision 2035 initiative.

98. Slovenia commended the progress made towards attaining the MDGs. It welcomed the withdrawal of reservations to CRC, but was concerned about the non-ratification of several core international instruments and restrictions on freedom of expression.

99. Belgium expressed concerns regarding child protection and freedom of expression. It was deeply concerned about the enactment of the Sharia Penal Code providing for capital and corporal punishment for a significant number of offences.

100. Sri Lanka noted the prioritization of and budgetary allocation to education. It welcomed action regarding children's and young people's rights, including the adoption of the Children and Young Persons Act and the Human Resource Development Fund.

101. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts to implement the recommendations of the previous UPR and to develop human capital through education. It commended the efforts to improve health care, but expressed concern about the shortage of qualified health practitioners.

102. Sudan commended the measures taken to promote the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. In particular, it praised the establishment of the Special Committee on Family Institution and Women.

103. Sweden noted the restrictions on fundamental freedoms and exploitation of foreign workers. It also noted that the Sharia Penal Code stipulated the death penalty for a broad range of offences, including adultery and blasphemy, thus contravening international law.

104. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat and the Bureau for their efforts in ensuring the success of the UPR session, and thanked all the distinguished delegates for their statements. The delegation took note of their comments and recommendations.

105. The delegation reiterated the focus of His Majesty's Government on the welfare of its people in addressing some of the core basic issues of human rights in terms of the rights to education, health, food and shelter. It regarded those rights as the four basic pillars of human rights.

106. It re-emphasized free education for all Bruneians, from primary to tertiary levels, stating that the Government also offered scholarships for eligible students to continue their studies abroad. With a population of 400,000, about 2,000 to 3,000 students were pursuing their tertiary education in the United Kingdom. For those who could not meet the academic requirement, technical education was also available.

107. It stated that free health services were provided for everyone, and for those who were working in the country, a very minimum charge was involved. In addition to that, patients were also sent abroad to Singapore, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States of America for specialized health-care treatment.

108. The delegation referred to its opening statement, in which it had mentioned the comprehensive provision of shelter to the people. It also highlighted the extended family

system as a kind of social safety net for the people, and stated that a non-contributory pension was provided by the Government as an additional safety net. Furthermore, other social, cultural and spiritual aspects were catered for.

109. With regard to multilateral cooperation on human rights, the delegation stated that Brunei Darussalam worked very closely with its regional partners and international organizations. With a population of 400,000 people, the country had very limited human resources. It needed capacity-building and would appreciate any assistance offered by international organizations.

110. Regarding Portugal's question about the Nationality Act, the delegation responded by referring to its legislation. The Brunei Nationality Act (Cap. 15) allows for either a Bruneian father or a Bruneian mother to obtain nationality for a child, in accordance with sections 4 and 6 respectively. Section 4 of the Brunei Nationality Act (Cap. 15) spells out the categories of persons who can acquire nationality by operation of law. Section 6 provides for the acquisition of nationality for a minor by way of registration, upon application by the parent or guardian who is a Brunei national. Therefore, pursuant to section 6 of the Act, children of Bruneian women married to foreign nationals may be accorded Brunei nationality upon application.

111. Regarding Mexico's call that Brunei Darussalam invite United Nations agencies to visit the country, the delegation responded that in addition to the said agencies, it welcomed all present to visit the country and appreciate the green and peaceful environment, as well as meet the friendly people of Brunei Darussalam.

112. The delegation expressed its pleasure to have participated in the second cycle of the UPR, and looked forward to working with the members of the troika, namely Morocco, Romania and Saudi Arabia and the Secretariat in drafting the report. It said that it would continue to work together with fellow member States, international organizations and NGOs.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

113. **The following recommendations will be examined by Brunei Darussalam, which will respond in due course, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014:**

113.1 **Ratify the other international instruments on human rights that the country is not yet a party to (Argentina);**

113.2 **Further fulfil the international obligations as well as join new human rights international instruments (Kazakhstan);**

113.3 **Ratify or accede to all the core United Nations human rights instruments listed in the relevant compilation of OHCHR of 12 February 2014, relating to political rights, civil rights, economic and social rights, elimination of racial discrimination, torture, rights of women and genocide (Ghana);**

113.4 **Accede to all core international human rights instruments, in particular to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Germany);**

113.5 **Ratify ICCPR and ICESCR (Algeria);**

** Conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

113.6 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol (Spain);**

113.7 **Continue to consider the potential for its accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which are the most fundamental human rights conventions (Japan);**

113.8 **Take steps in order to sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Romania);**

113.9 **Consider acceding to ICESCR and ICRMW (Egypt);**

113.10 **Ratify ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CAT and the Rome Statute (Tunisia);**

113.11 **Accede to ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, and the Rome Statute of the ICC (Australia);**

113.12 **Ratify or accede to CAT, OP-CAT, ICCPR, and lift its broad reservations to CEDAW and CRC (Czech Republic);**

113.13 **Ratify ICCPR, ICESCR and its Second Optional Protocol, and CAT (Djibouti);**

113.14 **Ratify ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD and CAT and withdraw reservations to CEDAW (France);**

113.15 **Ratify ICERD, ICESCR, ICCPR, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal);**

113.16 **Ratify core human rights treaties like ICCPR, ICESCR, and CAT and ensure that their provisions are respected in national legislation (Sierra Leone);**

113.17 **Consider ratification of core international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, such as ICCPR, CAT and ICESCR (Sweden);**

113.18 **Abolish the death penalty and sign and ratify both Optional Protocols to the ICCPR (Portugal);**

113.19 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**

113.20 **Ratify the core international human rights conventions to which it is not a party and the Rome Statute (Slovenia);**

113.21 **Consider acceding to ICCPR, ICESCR and ICC Rome Statute by the next review (Italy);**

113.22 **Review the reservation to CRC and CEDAW (Sweden);**

113.23 **Consider lifting reservations to articles 14, 20 and 21 of CRC and articles 9 and 29 of CEDAW (Burkina Faso);**

113.24 **Review the broad reservations to CRC and to CEDAW (Portugal);**

113.25 **Withdraw all remaining reservations to CRC and CEDAW (Slovenia);**

113.26 Lift its reservations to article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Canada);

113.27 Withdraw existing reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Russian Federation);

113.28 Continue and complete the process of ratification of OP-CRC-AC (Burkina Faso);

113.29 Ratify CRC, which it signed in 2008, and submit its outstanding report (Sierra Leone);

113.30 Continue its efforts to complete the ratification process for CRPD (India);

113.31 Continue enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities as well as accelerate the ratification process for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Republic of Korea);

113.32 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as a matter of priority (Indonesia);

113.33 Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);

113.34 Accede to the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

113.35 Consider the ratification of the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (Philippines);

113.36 Consider acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Uruguay);

113.37 Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for female and male domestic workers (Uruguay);

113.38 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines);

113.39 Review its national legislation and bring into conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Albania);

113.40 Strengthen the legislation to ban the use of children under 18 for the purpose of commercial sex, prostitution and pornography (Mexico);

113.41 Enact legislation to prohibit explicit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home, schools and alternative care facilities (Montenegro);

113.42 Use the national programme "Brunei Vision 2035" as a guide for the adoption of national legislation on gender equality and women's empowerment (Russian Federation);

113.43 Initiate reforms to bring its legislation on and practice of freedom of expression and opinion in line with international standards (Tunisia);

113.44 Consider revising relevant acts restricting the freedom of expression and media in order to ensure that they conform with international human rights standards (Slovenia);

113.45 Amend the Sedition Act and the Local Newspapers Order 1958 to strengthen freedom of expression in line with international human rights obligations (Canada);

113.46 Amend relevant regulations to align them with the international standards on freedom of expression and freedom of the press (Italy);

113.47 Implement the reforms needed to bring its legislative framework and practices into line with international norms and standards on freedom of the press and freedom of expression (Belgium);

113.48 Revise the Penal Code Order of 2013 to prohibit torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to bring Brunei's domestic legislation into line with its international human rights commitments on the freedoms of religion and of expression (United States of America);

113.49 Repeal the emergency powers and the Sedition Act to bring Brunei's domestic legislation into line with its international human rights commitments on the freedoms of expression, of peaceful assembly and of association (United States of America);

113.50 Review and amend all legislation placing undue and arbitrary restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, in particular the Sedition Act, the Undesirable Publication Act and the Local Newspapers Order, and put an end to censorship of the media and decriminalize defamation (Czech Republic);

113.51 Strengthen the text and enforcement of legislation that protects internationally recognized labour rights for all workers, particularly those rights relating to forced labour and freedom of association (United States of America)

113.52 Enforce the Trafficking and Smuggling Persons Order to hold accountable labour and sex traffickers (United States of America);

113.53 Take the necessary measures to amend the legislation on nationality in order to establish equality between men and women regarding the transmission of nationality to their children (Argentina);

113.54 Consider reviewing its national legislation and regulations to incorporate greater gender perspective and women's rights in the workplace and mobilize support for women in need (Bhutan);

113.55 Step up efforts towards respecting the principle of interdependence of human rights, as laid down in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, by promoting and protecting economic and social rights on an equal footing with those of a civil and political nature. This may be achieved by ratifying international instruments on civil and political rights and by strengthening national legislation relating to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms (Brazil);

113.56 Decriminalize sexual activity between consenting adults and repeal all provisions of the newly enacted Penal Code that discriminate against women and sexual minorities and introduce cruel or inhuman forms of punishment (Czech Republic);

113.57 **Amend article 375 of the Penal Code, dealing with the crime of rape, in order to remove the exception for sexual intercourse by a man with his wife (Ireland);**

113.58 **Postpone the implementation of the Sharia Penal Code Order, 2013, pending a comprehensive review ensuring the Order's compliance with international human rights standards, and put in place a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Ireland);**

113.59 **Enhance efforts to promote understanding of the Sharia Penal Code through awareness programmes and other relevant activities (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

113.60 **Ensure that the provisions and the application of the Sharia Penal Code Order remain in strict compliance with human rights law, which includes the ban of any inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Italy);**

113.61 **Withdraw the amendments to the Penal Code that introduce the death penalty and maintain the current de facto moratorium (Netherlands);**

113.62 **Continue to promote just and fair implementation of the Sharia Penal Code through adequate training and capacity building (Pakistan);**

113.63 **Delay the entry into force of the revised Penal Code and conduct a comprehensive review to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards (Sweden);**

113.64 **Ensure that implementation of the Sharia Penal Code Order 2013 is compliant with international human rights standards and does not lead to the imposition of the death penalty or torture or other inhuman or degrading punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

113.65 **Implement the Sharia Penal Code in a manner consistent with international human rights standards (Australia);**

113.66 **Reconsider the use of corporal and capital punishment under the Sharia Penal Code (Australia);**

113.67 **Review the Islamic Penal Code in order to meet minimum human rights standards and clarify its application to foreigners and non-Muslims (Spain);**

113.68 **Reinstitute its suspension of implementation of the Sharia Penal Code. Conduct a comprehensive review of the new Penal Code in relation to obligations under international law (Canada);**

113.69 **Repeal or amend those sections of the Penal Code that prevent LGBT persons from having equal rights (Netherlands);**

113.70 **Proceed to the abolition of current legislation criminalizing sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Spain);**

113.71 **Decriminalize sexual activity between same-sex consenting adults and ensure the protection of human rights for sexual minorities in conformity with the State's human rights obligations (Canada);**

113.72 **Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (France);**

113.73 **Reform Bruneian laws and policies, such as the Sedition Act, to ensure consistency with international standards (Australia);**

113.74 **Increase the age of criminal responsibility, which is now set at 7 years, to conform to international standards (Sierra Leone);**

113.75 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and prohibit sentences of corporal punishment and life imprisonment for children under the age of 18 (Czech Republic);**

113.76 **Continue its efforts to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Uruguay);**

113.77 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and explicitly prohibit life imprisonment for persons under the age of 18 (Germany);**

113.78 **Bring into line the definition of minor in all legal domains, especially the penal, and prohibit life sentences and corporal punishment for crimes committed by minors (Mexico);**

113.79 **Adopt reforms allowing women the transmission of citizenship as a measure in favour of gender equality and the reduction of cases of statelessness (Mexico);**

113.80 **Facilitate the integration and naturalization of stateless persons who are permanent residents (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

113.81 **Bring into force the country's law that encompasses specific provisions for special categories of patients, such as mentally disabled offenders and those lacking capacity, to give consent for treatment (Bahrain);**

113.82 **Strengthen the legislative framework to reflect the provisions of international law on the protection of children (Maldives);**

113.83 **Take necessary steps to improve expertise of Brunei Darussalam's obligations in ensuring effective implementation of human rights instruments to which it is a party (Cambodia);**

113.84 **Continue developing the institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights (Jordan);**

113.85 **Establish a national human rights commission in conformity with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);**

113.86 **Establish an independent national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

113.87 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Egypt);**

113.88 **Consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (India);**

113.89 **Set up its national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

113.90 **Continue measures to strengthen the capacity of national human rights protection mechanisms (Uzbekistan);**

113.91 **Continue to pursue its social policies upholding the institution of the family in line with traditional family values (Bangladesh);**

113.92 **Continue all efforts and measures aimed at promoting and strengthening capacity of national institutions for the implementation of Islamic sharia rules (Saudi Arabia);**

113.93 **Continue its policies on improving the rights of the child (Jordan);**

113.94 **Intensify efforts and strengthen policies and strategies to address the sale and trafficking of persons, especially women and children (Costa Rica);**

113.95 **Continue its efforts in training and capacity-building programmes for government and law enforcement officials in order to strengthen efficiency in the promotion and protection of human rights within the existing laws and policies (Malaysia);**

113.96 **Take into account the constructive contributions arising from this review in the current national social policies (Nicaragua);**

113.97 **Continue strengthening its successful education policies as well as the social protection programmes being implemented in order to provide the highest quality of life and well-being to its people (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

113.98 **Maintain constructive and cooperative dialogue with the international community in the field of human rights (Timor-Leste);**

113.99 **Continue providing the full exercise of women and children rights within the framework of the Plan of Action on Family Institution and Women (Kazakhstan);**

113.100 **Continue its initiatives to improve the living standards of its people, especially in meeting the basic needs of vulnerable groups (Kuwait);**

113.101 **Continue strengthening and implementing the current Plan of Action for Women and the Family Institution (Nicaragua);**

113.102 **Continue the programmes and national plans aimed at empowering youth (Syrian Arab Republic);**

113.103 **Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children on all levels (Qatar);**

113.104 **Continue its endeavour to promote and protect the human rights of children and women (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

113.105 **Continue its efforts to promote education and training in human rights (Djibouti);**

113.106 **Intensify efforts to develop a human rights education system and to strengthen the culture of human rights (Uzbekistan);**

113.107 **Continue to ensure the fulfilment of the needs of vulnerable groups in Brunei Darussalam and, in this regard, also continue to uphold its commitments to the relevant international human rights instruments to which Brunei Darussalam is a party (Pakistan);**

113.108 **Further its endeavours with regard to the smooth and productive activities of the six Special Committees to address the issues of poverty; community mentality; immoral behaviour; crime; family institution and women; and persons with disabilities and the elderly (Azerbaijan);**

113.109 **Underscore discipline and respect by youth for the aged under Brunei's Care for the Elderly Project, bearing in mind that an older person or**

parent who is abused by a caregiver would still feel humiliated, however much he or she is fed (Ghana);

113.110 **Endeavour to sustain its Senior Citizens Activity Centre to enable youth to learn from the experience of the elderly (Ghana);**

113.111 **Continue its efforts in maintaining social harmony (Singapore);**

113.112 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen human rights (Myanmar);**

113.113 **Continue its cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on all issues of mutual interest (Romania);**

113.114 **Continue its engagement with various institutions to promote and protect human rights in the regional and international fora (Kuwait);**

113.115 **Continue and strengthen the active interaction with regional and international organizations of human rights (Morocco);**

113.116 **Continue its constructive role and contribution in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, particularly through established regional frameworks in ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR); the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) (Myanmar);**

113.117 **Collaborate with treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders (Chad);**

113.118 **Step up its cooperation with the United Nations by addressing a standing invitation to special procedures and present the overdue report on the implementation of the CRC (Portugal);**

113.119 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the United Nations special procedures (Ukraine);**

113.120 **Cooperate with the special procedures of the United Nations in issuing a standing invitation and facilitating their visits (France);**

113.121 **Foster an inclusive society in which all, regardless of race, citizenship and religion, are equally protected (Sweden);**

113.122 **Ensure the principle of equality before the law and respect for the fundamental rights of all citizens without distinction of any kind, such as sex, race, religion or belief (France);**

113.123 **Implement awareness projects and activities to combat discriminatory attitudes and further its efforts to promote human rights education (Albania);**

113.124 **Continue to make efforts to further promote women's rights and eliminate discrimination (Japan);**

113.125 **Respect the fundamental principle of equality between men and women, in particular by allowing women from Brunei Darussalam to transmit their nationality to their children and by raising the age of marriage for women (France);**

113.126 **Maintain the moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and provide statistics, including sex and age, on persons sentenced to the death penalty or executed (France);**

113.127 **Maintain the moratorium and ultimately move to abolish the death penalty in law (Australia);**

113.128 **Uphold Brunei's long-lasting moratorium on the death penalty (Czech Republic);**

113.129 **Refrain from any steps to extend the application of the death penalty or otherwise alter the legal system in a manner that would violate human rights (Germany);**

113.130 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Montenegro);**

113.131 **If Brunei continues to use the death penalty, it should meet at least the minimum international standards on death penalty (ECOSOC resolution 1984/50) and the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 6 and 14) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 37) (Belgium);**

113.132 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty and work towards its abolition (Sweden);**

113.133 **Address specifically the root causes of gender violence by promoting awareness programmes in the education sector and by the economic empowerment of women (Spain);**

113.134 **Continue its efforts in safeguarding the rights of women and children, particularly in combating trafficking in persons (Philippines);**

113.135 **Continue enhancing its efforts to strengthen the family institution and to empower women and ensure their enjoyment of their legitimate rights and ensure women's effective participation in decision-making (Sudan);**

113.136 **Prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, including in the home (Uruguay);**

113.137 **Ban corporal punishment sentences and life sentences, in particular for children (Costa Rica);**

113.138 **Step up its efforts in the promotion and protection of the rights of children, including continuing its measures to combat violence against children (Afghanistan);**

113.139 **Strengthen and widen the scope of the awareness campaigns against child abuse, as well as the establishment of the Action Team on Child Protection to oversee cases of abuse, including corporal punishment (Brazil);**

113.140 **Strengthen the measures adopted to ensure the effective prohibition of prostitution by minors under 18 years, paying particular attention to the prohibition of the use of this type of prostitution or of the offer of it (Spain);**

113.141 **Implement article 3 (b) of ILO Convention No. 182, which requires States parties to establish strict prohibition of the use, recruitment or offering of a child for prostitution, production of pornography or pornographic performances (Belgium);**

113.142 **Take further measures to ensure sufficient data on the prevalence of the worst forms of child labour in the country and particularly with regard to child trafficking (Albania);**

113.143 **Redouble its efforts to ensure effective control in the fight against the sale and trafficking of children, including by raising awareness and by**

providing agents at the border with the necessary tools to identify victims and vulnerable populations so as to combat trafficking effectively (Belgium);

113.144 **Take effective and time-bound measures to ensure that children, with particular attention to children of migrant workers, are protected from trafficking and prostitution (Slovenia);**

113.145 **Extend its participation and share its experience in the field of combating trafficking in persons with the countries of the region and continue its efforts to cooperate with the international community to eliminate this social scourge (United Arab Emirates);**

113.146 **Continue its efforts against trafficking in persons (Azerbaijan);**

113.147 **Continue taking measures on combating trafficking in persons (Kazakhstan);**

113.148 **Step up efforts in the area of combating human trafficking, including training of officials on identifying victims of human trafficking as well as measures for the protection and rehabilitation of victims (Belarus);**

113.149 **Continue to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and to raise awareness of its danger (Qatar);**

113.150 **Promote freedom of religion and belief, including by increasing access to religious literature, places of worship and public religious gatherings for non-Muslims and non-Shafi'i Muslims (Canada);**

113.151 **Ensure full freedom of expression and end media censorship (Sweden);**

113.152 **Attach greater importance to the promotion of civil and political rights, recognizing the indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, and grant freedom of speech and other civil liberties to its citizens (Germany);**

113.153 **Continue to promote the empowerment of women, particularly their employment and participation in politics and the decision-making process (Thailand);**

113.154 **Continue efforts to promote the status of women in society and their effective participation in the decision-making process of the country (Algeria);**

113.155 **Continue to work on the formation of a national mechanism for women`s empowerment (Belarus);**

113.156 **Take further steps towards ensuring better representation and participation of women in public and political life, including in the Government and Parliament (Egypt);**

113.157 **Strengthen efforts to promote empowerment of women and gender equality with the objective of increasing their participation in decision-making (Maldives);**

113.158 **Continue to promote opportunities for women in society so that they can actively participate in the decision-making process (Nicaragua);**

113.159 **Continue its efforts to achieve sustainable economic development, improving education and training, protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups, such as women and the poor (Yemen);**

113.160 **Continue efforts to promote economic growth through its national development plans and ensure greater work opportunities for its youth and women (Viet Nam);**

113.161 **Further protect women's rights by providing more assistance to poor women and women with disabilities (China);**

113.162 **Continue its efforts to ensure adequate housing, access to health care and education as means to ensure a quality standard of living for its people (Turkey);**

113.163 **Continue its exemplary efforts to improve the living standards of the people, particularly by ensuring their access to quality health-care services and education (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

113.164 **Continue all initiatives and efforts to improve the standard of living of the people of Brunei, especially in the field of health and quality of education (Saudi Arabia);**

113.165 **Further enhance national mechanisms and invest more resources in improving the well-being of the people, including through adequate provision of housing (Viet Nam);**

113.166 **Continue its efforts to design and implement its plans aimed at promoting human development programmes in the important sectors in the country (Oman);**

113.167 **Ensure that continuous efforts are undertaken to develop its human capital through education and training and by empowering vulnerable groups (Sri Lanka);**

113.168 **Continue to meet the basic needs of vulnerable groups in the country, especially women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

113.169 **Accelerate putting in place a comprehensive development plan for the health system and its infrastructure (Bahrain);**

113.170 **Continue putting an emphasis on the promotion of human rights, ensuring the right to basic standards of health, education, nutrition and welfare of the entire population (Cuba);**

113.171 **Continue to improve its national health-care system and ensure access to quality health care (Singapore);**

113.172 **Continue to strengthen its comprehensive free health-care system by taking the necessary steps to increase the number of qualified local health personnel in the country (Sri Lanka);**

113.173 **Increase its provision of scholarships to students to study medicine and intensity efforts to optimize facilities and human resource utilization, focusing on efficient health system models (State of Palestine);**

113.174 **Continue ensuring the right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all persons (Egypt);**

113.175 **Continue to increase public awareness of the harm of narcotic drugs (Russian Federation);**

113.176 **Continue the programmes and national plans to develop education, especially in early childhood (Syrian Arab Republic);**

113.177 **Continue to promote the right to education for all, particularly for the underprivileged and disadvantaged (Thailand);**

113.178 **Continue to seek international technical cooperation and assistance, especially in the areas of health and education (Timor-Leste);**

113.179 **Take further measures aimed at ensuring the right to education for all and promote human rights education and training (Ukraine);**

113.180 **Further include human rights education and awareness-raising programmes in school and university curricula as part of its efforts to promote human rights in the country (Armenia);**

113.181 **Continue its efforts with a view to further promoting its position on achieving almost all targets of the MDGs (Azerbaijan);**

113.182 **Continue to implement the national education strategic plan to raise the coverage of education and its quality (China);**

113.183 **Continue its efforts in the promotion and protection of children's rights, including through the implementation of the Plan of Action of Family Institution and Women and public education campaigns on the rights of the child (Indonesia);**

113.184 **Continue promoting the rights of children, particularly in guaranteeing their access to quality education, so as to ensure that they would be able to enter the workforce with the necessary skills (Malaysia);**

113.185 **Increase the access of children, women and persons with disabilities to education (Morocco);**

113.186 **Continue to take further steps to strengthen its education system, particularly through the initiatives outlined in its Strategic Plan (Singapore);**

113.187 **Continue to actively promote the right to education for all and further its efforts to promote human rights education and training (State of Palestine);**

113.188 **Prioritize the enjoyment of the right to education all over the country (Sudan);**

113.189 **Continue to implement programmes aimed at improving the accessibility for persons with disabilities in the learning and working environment (Cambodia).**

114. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as being endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was headed by The Honourable Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Abu Sufian Haji Ali, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations, World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Yahya Haji Idris, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office;
- H.E. Datin Paduka Tan Bee Yong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Ms. P A Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Mr. Dato Seri Setia Haji Tasim Hj Akim, Director of Islamic Legal Unit, Ministry of Religious Affairs;
- Mrs. Hjh Nor Hashimah Hj Mohd Taib, Assistant Solicitor-General. Attorney General's Chambers;
- Mr. Mohd Shafiee Hj Kassim, Acting Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Mr. Azmi Hj Hafneh, Acting Director, Department of Immigration and National Registration;
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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Costa Rica

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April 7 to 9 May 2014. The review of Costa Rica was held at the 11th meeting, on 5 May 2014. The delegation of Costa Rica was headed by Gioconda Ubeda Rivera, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship. At its 17th meeting, held on 8 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Costa Rica.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Costa Rica: Argentina, Botswana and Viet Nam.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Costa Rica:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/CRI/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/CRI/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/CRI/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Costa Rica through the troika. The questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR). A summary of additional questions posed during the interactive dialogue by Angola, Canada, France, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland and Italy can be found in section I. B below.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Costa Rica indicated that it was a great responsibility to report on its compliance with and implementation of its international human rights obligations. In its second national report, Costa Rica had provided information on the follow-up to the recommendations received in 2009. In 2010, it had presented an additional document with its position on the recommendations, and in 2012 it had presented a midterm report on progress made and on specific compliance with some of the recommendations.

6. In preparing the second national report, 21 institutions from the executive branch, which together formed the Inter-Institutional Committee on Follow-Up to and Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations (CIIDDHH), had been involved. The judicial branch, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Supreme Electoral Court and the Legislative Assembly had also participated as observers. CIIDDHH had now been institutionalized as a mechanism for consultation and dialogue, through an executive decree, and with a permanent consultative body for civil society.

7. Costa Rica was pleased to report that, since the previous review, it had ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

(CPED), the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 189 (2011) concerning decent work for domestic workers and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It had also signed the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR), which the delegation hoped would soon be approved by the Legislative Assembly.

8. Costa Rica was a middle-income country that, since 1949, had consistently invested in education. In 2011, Costa Rica had achieved a literacy rate of 97.6 per cent. The country had also a programme of cash transfer which was conditional on students remaining in the formal education system. Costa Rica hoped to increase the income of poor families, thus paving the way for access to education and ensuring universal secondary education. That would also be a step towards reducing poverty, combating the school dropout rate, addressing examination failure and tackling child labour.

9. Costa Rica had an internationally recognized quality universal health system, which was reflected in the average life expectancy of 79.3 years and in the low rate of child mortality. In 2011, 97.5 per cent of the population had their own water supply and nine out of ten persons had drinking water. The right to water had been recognized by the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice and in March 2014, a new law on water resources had been approved on first reading.

10. Despite the aforementioned progress, Costa Rica faced challenges stemming from the structural situation which was reflected in the levels of social inequality and inequity, as well as the increasing level of organized crime in the region.

11. The delegation reported on a number of important mechanisms that had been established or strengthened, and legislation, policies and programmes that had been adopted for the care and protection of the most vulnerable population groups, thereby promoting social inclusion.

12. The rights of children and adolescents had been seriously affected by increase in sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy, in particular when they were linked to abusive relations with adults. The lead body in that area, the Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (National Child Agency), conducted policies, programmes and projects for the comprehensive protection of minors and their families, in coordination with other institutions and non-governmental organizations. Nevertheless, it was important to continue strengthening those programmes.

13. Costa Rica was also working to mainstream a gender perspective in all areas and had carried out a number of initiatives in State bodies to build a society based on the principle of gender equality.

14. With regard to specific population groups, the State had had to take targeted measures for indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, migrants and refugees. As part of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, and following the 2009 Durban Review Conference, Costa Rica had been pleased to announce that it had adopted a National Policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and a related Action Plan for 2014–2019. There was currently also a proposal for a reform of the Constitution which would declare Costa Rica to be a multi-ethnic and pluricultural nation.

15. Costa Rica had a strong judicial system which granted rights to persons regardless of their nationality, and which was strengthened through numerous rulings of the Constitutional Chamber, guaranteeing the effectiveness of the standards related to the

migrant population. Furthermore, over the previous four years, Costa Rica had been developing a new Migration Act and a comprehensive migration policy with a human rights perspective in order to achieve the integration of the migrant population in society. As a result, the conditions of migrants in Costa Rica had significantly improved between 2000 and 2011.

16. Regarding the refugee population, Costa Rica had a long humanitarian tradition and long-standing experience in the integration of refugees. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collaborated closely with Costa Rica.

17. Costa Rica had also been discussing ways to guarantee the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) population. Activities were being carried out and initiatives were being developed in which civil society had played a fundamental role.

18. Another area in which the role of civil society had been important was the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Following the first UPR cycle, Costa Rica had promulgated a series of executive decrees which sought to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities.

19. The delegation briefly referred to the national institutions which guaranteed compliance with international human rights standards in Costa Rica. Reference was made to the existence, since 1989, of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court and of the Office of the Ombudsman, which had been created in 1992, and had been accredited with A status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The delegation also reported that, in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), in 2014, Costa Rica had adopted a law to create the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, which would contribute to reducing overcrowding in prisons and improving living conditions for detainees. The new preventive mechanism was administratively assigned to the Office of the Ombudsman, but was financially and operationally independent, which guaranteed that it would function without any interference. Reference was also made to the National Coalition against Illicit Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons, which was made up of 21 public institutions.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 89 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II below. All written statements of the delegations, to be checked against delivery on the United Nations Webcast archives,[1] are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council when available.[2]

21. The United States of America commended Costa Rica for its efforts to address prison conditions and combat child labour, but remained concerned about the exploitation of children, the prevalence of violence against women and trafficking in persons.

22. Uruguay recalled that Costa Rica was a stable and consolidated democracy. It acknowledged progress in addressing migration issues and noted the reduction in the use of administrative detention.

[1] United Nations Webcast archives at http://webtv.un.org/watch/costa-rica-review-19th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/3537639868001/.

[2] Available on the UPR extranet at https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/upr/Sessions/19session/CostaRica/Pages/default.aspx.

23. Turkmenistan identified the establishment of CIIDDHH as an example of good practice; CIIDDHH had provided areas of exchange for civil society.

24. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) welcomed the country's efforts to address poverty, distribution of wealth and social exclusion. It acknowledged efforts to improve the situation of indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, migrants and refugees.

25. Viet Nam commended Costa Rica for its human rights achievements and its active cooperation with the Human Rights Council. It was concerned about human trafficking, unemployment and child labour.

26. Zambia commended Costa Rica for its cooperation with OHCHR, the establishment and maintenance of institutional bodies, the existence of comprehensive legislation on migration policy and the promotion of the rule of law.

27. Albania welcomed the implementation of the plan of action for the protection of children and adolescents in situations of violence. It commended the measures undertaken to mainstream a gender perspective.

28. Algeria noted the adoption of laws against human trafficking, on abolishing corporal punishment and on strengthening the National Council for Older Persons.

29. Angola noted the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR cycle in the areas of health and education and asked about affirmative action taken for persons of African descent.

30. Argentina acknowledged the ratification of CPED and initiatives to protect the elderly. It welcomed the implementation of the national policy on disability.

31. Australia welcomed steps taken to address domestic violence and ensure independent monitoring of prison conditions. It remained concerned about child abuse, forced labour and the situation of women who were subjected to domestic servitude.

32. Azerbaijan commended the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the establishment of CIIDDHH.

33. The Bahamas commended Costa Rica for the establishment of CIIDDHH, measures to secure vulnerable groups' access to justice and efforts to reduce violence against women.

34. Bahrain commended the role of the Office of the Ombudsman. It welcomed the entry into force of the law on trafficking and the adoption of a preventive system to address violence against women.

35. Bangladesh commended Costa Rica for its role as Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. It welcomed the measures taken to preserve the family as the traditional social institution. It expressed concern about protection of the rights of children and migrants.

36. Belgium considered Costa Rica a model in Central America with regard to respect for human rights and democratic principles. It welcomed the ratification of CPED and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

37. Benin noted the adoption of a national policy for children and the establishment of CIIDDHH. It urged the Government to adopt measures to promote respect for diversity.

38. Bhutan commended Costa Rica for launching national and international human rights initiatives, especially amending the Violence against Women Act and introducing the National Disability Policy 2011–2021.

39. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) highlighted institutional progress in the area of human rights. It commended the establishment of CIIDDHH.

40. Botswana welcomed the efforts of Costa Rica to address domestic violence, drug trafficking, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and child labour, and its commitment to equality and non-discrimination.

41. Brazil commended the Government for the establishment of CIIDDHH. It welcomed the adoption of the national policy for children.

42. Bulgaria welcomed the establishment of CIIDDHH and human rights programmes and policies.

43. Burundi welcomed the measures taken to curb racism. It welcomed the commitment of Costa Rica at the institutional and legislative levels to ensuring better protection of human rights for all its citizens and foreigners living on Costa Rican soil.

44. Switzerland considered that the human rights situation in Costa Rica was reasonable. However, it expressed concern about sexual exploitation of women and children and detention conditions.

45. Chad welcomed the Government's submission of a midterm report in 2012 and the establishment of CIIDDHH. It noted the policy for a racism-free society.

46. Chile highlighted the Government's commitment to the international promotion of human rights. It welcomed the creation of the national system for the treatment and prevention of violence against women and domestic violence.

47. China appreciated the implementation by Costa Rica of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity. It welcomed ongoing measures to improve the quality of education, ensure access to drinking water and protect vulnerable groups.

48. Colombia acknowledged efforts to implement the recommendations of the first UPR cycle and the Government's collaboration with human rights mechanisms. It welcomed the legislative and institutional strengthening evidenced in the plan for a racism-free society.

49. The Congo welcomed the Government's efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children. The Congo noted the measures taken for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

50. Côte d'Ivoire noted measures to strengthen the administration of justice and improve prison conditions. It welcomed the importance attributed to civil society and encouraged efforts to further develop social services.

51. Cuba recognized progress in the areas of equality and non-discrimination. Challenges remained, such as inequality and inequity, which enabled the presence of criminal organizations in society, increasing the drug market and trafficking in and exploitation of persons.

52. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the establishment of CIIDDHH and the permanent body for consultations with civil society. It asked for further information regarding the integration of migrants and persons of African descent.

53. Ecuador recognized efforts to comply with recommendations from the first review. However, it expressed concern about the situation of migrant workers.

54. Egypt commended the delegation for the informative and comprehensive report. Egypt believed that Costa Rica had been a responsible member of the Human Rights Council.

55. El Salvador commended Costa Rica for the progress made since the last review, which had allowed the country to undertake an internal assessment of the situation nationwide.

56. Estonia welcomed progress made in the fields of gender equality and the rights of women and children, as well as on the decriminalization of defamation. It encouraged Costa Rica to allocate adequate resources for the effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes. It called for steps to improve conditions for indigenous communities.

57. Ethiopia welcomed measures taken to address violence against women, including the establishment of a high-level commission to monitor compliance with the Violence against Women Act. It commended the promulgation of the Trafficking in Persons Act.

58. France welcomed the ratification of CPED, as well as the commitment of Costa Rica to the abolition of the death penalty at the international level. France asked about measures to address overcrowding in prisons and facilitate the reintegration of detainees, as well as the rate of violent crime.

59. Germany welcomed the adoption of a rights-based National Policy for Children and Adolescents. It remained concerned about protection of children and protective mechanisms at the local level, as well as prison overcrowding.

60. Regarding ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), Costa Rica indicated that it had previously believed that the existing laws, complemented by a resolution of the Constitutional Chamber, provided for the full protection of migrant workers and their families. However, the issue would be taken up again with greater impetus; Costa Rica therefore appreciated the recommendations that had been made in that regard.

61. Responding to comments made by Ecuador, Costa Rica indicated that it would not be able to accept recommendations or statements that were not based on reality. It was possible that there had been isolated cases of discrimination against migrant workers, which happened in every country, but it would not accept that there were no xenophobic policies in place and no systemic xenophobic actions taken.

62. In line with the voluntary commitments undertaken by Costa Rica during the last review, and under the framework of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, Costa Rica had adopted the National Policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, which aimed for an inclusive and more respectful society that embraced sociocultural and ethnic diversity. The Policy was the result of a joint process involving the State and civil society, based on the principle of "nothing about us without us" and targeting persons of African descent, indigenous or native peoples, migrants and refugees. The process had taken place under the framework of CIIDDHH and supported by OHCHR.

63. Costa Rica recognized that it faced challenges regarding indigenous peoples. The existence of a favourable judicial framework was insufficient to ensure full protection of the rights of communities if it was not accompanied by State policies and actions which sought the effective application of and compliance with the standards to which the State itself had committed. Costa Rica shared information about a recent positive experience with indigenous communities in the south.

64. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had made various comments and recommendations to Costa Rica relating to the situation of indigenous peoples, particularly since 2011. Those recommendations echoed the concerns and claims of the indigenous

peoples and coincided significantly with the efforts that the State was undertaking to address their situation.

65. Ghana welcomed the measures taken to improve care and respect for the elderly and improve access to water and sanitation by all. It asked about the impact of such measures.

66. Guatemala commended Costa Rica for progress made, particularly in addressing domestic violence. It shared the opinion of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the importance of ratifying ICRMW.

67. Honduras commended Costa Rica for the national report. It appreciated the progress made since the previous review, in particular with regard to addressing the issue of migration.

68. Hungary took note of the ratification of CPED, the National Commission on the Improved Administration of Justice and the Access to Justice Commission. It asked about the impact of established bodies on the implementation of the Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People.

69. Iceland encouraged Costa Rica to strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons. It was concerned about the inadequate protection of the right to sexual and reproductive health. It raised questions on the implementation of programmes ensuring child protection and on measures to eliminate discrimination against LGBT persons.

70. India welcomed measures to promote inclusive social practices and respect for diversity, including the National Policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia. It expressed concern about the rights of indigenous peoples and acknowledged challenges that resulted from rising poverty and economic disparities.

71. Indonesia commended Costa Rica for prioritizing efforts to combat trafficking in persons. It appreciated various measures and policies for the promotion and protection of migrants, including the enactment of legislation.

72. Iraq commended Costa Rica for its accession to a number of international human rights instruments, including CPED, and the adoption of several laws, such as the Trafficking in Persons Act and the law prohibiting corporal punishment of children and adolescents.

73. Ireland commended the establishment of CIIDDHH and the Permanent Body for Consultation with Civil Society. It welcomed efforts to combat human trafficking, racism and racial discrimination. It noted, however, that concerns had been expressed about ongoing discrimination against the indigenous population.

74. Iran (Islamic Republic of) noted that there was no mechanism for the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making regarding their well-being and development. It also noted that discrimination and violence against women and children continued.

75. Italy appreciated the establishment of CIIDDHH and measures to combat violence against women. It asked whether Costa Rica planned to include education on indigenous cultures in the national school curriculum.

76. Japan appreciated the ratification of CPED, the enhancement of the national justice system, the establishment of CIIDDHH and efforts to protect vulnerable groups, including children.

77. Libya commended efforts made to promote and protect human rights through the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments. It appreciated the adoption of a policy on the elderly and the establishment of institutions to combat trafficking.

78. Liechtenstein welcomed progress in addressing violence against women. It noted with concern reports regarding mistreatment of children by teachers, as well as by police officers in detention and incidents of intrafamily and sexual violence. It urged Costa Rica to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute as soon as possible.

79. Malaysia acknowledged the efforts of Costa Rica to advance women's rights, address violence against children and adolescents and combat trafficking in persons. It commended the establishment of the High Level Commission to monitor compliance with the Violence against Women Act.

80. Maldives applauded the establishment of CIIDDHH, the adoption of important legislation and the commitment of Costa Rica to environmental rights as a human rights obligation.

81. Mauritania noted the commitment and cooperation of Costa Rica with United Nations mechanisms through the ratification of and accession to different instruments. It commended measures to guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

82. Mexico recognized efforts made to protect refugees and asylum seekers. It appreciated cooperation with human rights mechanisms that had visited the country. It hoped that Costa Rica would soon submit its overdue reports to treaty bodies.

83. Costa Rica had implemented a series of initiatives to build a society based on the principle of gender equality. One example was the establishment of the 2007–2017 national policy, which had the support of women's organizations and other sectors of civil society. Costa Rica had also developed gender equality policies in several national institutions and provided training on gender sensitivity. Steps were being taken to combat gender stereotypes through the media. In accordance with the recommendation in paragraph 91.2 of the previous report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic (A/HRC/13/15), the National Women's Institute (INAMU) had disseminated a first report on the situation of women's rights in 2011.

84. In response to concerns raised by some delegations on the issue of violence against women, the delegation said that Costa Rica had established a High Level Commission to monitor compliance with the Violence against Women Act and a comprehensive care system for victims. In addition, abuse and assault against women had been criminalized in 2011, an internal register of perpetrators had been created, the initial period of protection measures had been increased to one year, access to justice for victims had been strengthened and the criminal authorities had been authorized to apply measures in the absence of specialized domestic violence courts. In 2013, an emergency plan had also been drawn up to reduce gender-related murders of women.

85. In response to concerns raised by some delegations, Costa Rica indicated that the protection and promotion of the human rights of children were a fundamental pillar of State action. The National Policy for Children and Adolescents 2009–2021 set the strategic focus of the State to promote, protect and ensure the human rights of all children.

86. Costa Rica had also established a national strategic framework entitled "Road map to make Costa Rica a country free of the worst forms of child labor", which promoted coordination among initiatives that had a direct or indirect impact on the prevention and eradication of child labour.

87. The rights of LGBTI persons was a challenging area for Costa Rica. There had been increased interest in the debate on the recognition of the rights arising from same-sex unions. Concerning the recommendation made by Spain relating to the right of transsexual persons to identify themselves in keeping with their gender identity (A/HRC/13/15, para. 91.4), Costa Rica noted that in 2010, the Supreme Electoral Court had issued a decree

providing that everyone had the right to enjoy respect for their image and sexual identity when a photograph was taken for their identity card. Costa Rica acknowledged that changing cultural attitudes was a challenge. A protocol on harassment, bullying and cyberbullying in secondary schools had also been prepared.

88. Costa Rica indicated that a subsystem of indigenous education had been established by the Ministry of Public Education. With the support of the World Bank, Costa Rica had invested in infrastructure in indigenous territories and had prepared an educational programme.

89. Administrative actions had been taken to address prison overcrowding. Some detainees had been allowed to complete their sentences using non-custodial measures and efforts had been made to improve conditions in some prisons. The State recognized that there were still significant improvements to be made.

90. In order to address trafficking in persons, the Act on Trafficking and Related Activities had been promulgated, establishing the National Coalition against Illicit Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons. The Act provided for increased punishments for the abduction of minors, and criminalized sexual tourism and labour exploitation. The penalty for labour exploitation was more severe if the victim was under the age of 18. The Act also established procedures for the care of minors and the right of victims to bring civil actions for reparation. The National Coalition was made up of 21 institutions. The Act provided for the establishment of a specific fund which was financed by taxes to be paid by all tourists and nationals when leaving the country. Information campaigns were being carried out in the area of prevention.

91. Responding to several questions on the international jurisdiction of crimes categorized in Costa Rican legislation, the delegation said that such crimes included the possession and production of pornographic material depicting minors, and human trafficking and smuggling. The Penal Code, in article 6, established the possibility of applying Costa Rican law to punishable acts committed abroad in various cases, including when the consequences of a punishable act were felt fully or partially in Costa Rica, or when the perpetrator of a punishable act committed abroad was a Costa Rican national.

92. Montenegro welcomed progress regarding efforts to address violence against women and the implementation of a High Level Commission to monitor compliance with the Violence against Women Act. It welcomed steps to combat human trafficking.

93. Morocco commended Costa Rica for its openness. It took note of challenges faced in relation to structural inequalities, criminality, violence, poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth.

94. The Netherlands welcomed progress made in the field of protecting women against domestic violence by adopting a national response and prevention system. It was concerned about the suffering of the LGBT community as a result of discrimination.

95. Nicaragua commended Costa Rica for progress made in upholding human rights, in particular by addressing discrimination and xenophobia, as well as with regard to the adoption of the comprehensive migration policy.

96. The Niger noted that Costa Rica had ratified several international instruments and adopted various pieces of legislation to improve the human rights situation. It welcomed the institutional framework to improve the judiciary.

97. Norway welcomed the 2010 Immigration Act and the establishment of CIIDDHH. It echoed the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider reviewing abortion legislation in order to guarantee access to abortion when pregnancy was the result of rape.

98. Pakistan commended Costa Rica for its efforts to establish CIIDDHH, prevent violence against women and children, ensure gender equity, access to education and health care and combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

99. Paraguay welcomed progress made by Costa Rica in addressing human rights issues, particularly with regard to violence against women, trafficking and child labour. It commended the creation of CIIDDHH.

100. Peru appreciated the efforts made by Costa Rica, in particular, the ratification of CPED, the creation of CIIDDHH, the establishment of the national plan to address racial discrimination and xenophobia and efforts to address trafficking in persons. It offered to share its experience on regulating the right of indigenous peoples to be consulted.

101. The Philippines welcomed efforts to implement the UPR recommendations through national mechanisms and the adoption of legislation concerning violence against women and trafficking. It acknowledged the progress made with regard to migration issues.

102. Portugal welcomed the establishment of CIIDDHH and measures to protect persons who suffered from persecution in their countries of origin owing to their sexual orientation. It also welcomed measures to prevent children from dropping out of school and to address low school attendance.

103. Romania acknowledged the update on developments, commending the reinforcement of the legal framework for the protection of human rights since 2009 and the ratification of a number of international instruments.

104. The Russian Federation welcomed the report of Costa Rica and recognized that efforts had been made to implement the recommendations from the first UPR cycle. However, it acknowledged that problems continued to exist and made recommendations in that regard.

105. Rwanda commended progress made by Costa Rica in addressing migration issues and violence against women. It applauded the initiatives being undertaken to combat gender stereotypes.

106. Senegal appreciated efforts being made to realize economic and social rights, combat violence against vulnerable sectors of the population and protect child and adolescent victims of violence.

107. Serbia commended Costa Rica for implementing the recommendations from the first review, particularly in the areas of combating violence, trafficking in persons and protection of minors. It took note of affirmative action that had been taken with regard to equality and non-discrimination. It suggested that Costa Rica should reduce prison overcrowding.

108. Sierra Leone noted that Costa Rica provided a good example of the results that could be obtained when military spending was diverted to development. It was concerned by the high incidence of trafficking in children and urged Costa Rica to raise the age of sexual consent to 18 and to develop new strategies to reduce the prison population.

109. Singapore noted that achievements in combating violence against women had helped to reduce the number of gender-related murders of women. It also acknowledged the emphasis Costa Rica placed on improving access to health care, especially for women.

110. Slovakia welcomed efforts to improve human rights protection, including for children. It commended Costa Rica for its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and took note of activities to combat child labour.

111. Slovenia welcomed the active cooperation of Costa Rica with international human rights bodies. It commended Costa Rica for its human rights record and the establishment of CIIDDHH.

112. Spain commended Costa Rica for progress made in protecting women's rights, including the establishment of the High Level Commission to follow-up on the implementation of the Violence against Women Act.

113. Sri Lanka took note of efforts to address violence against women. It noted the difficulties Costa Rica faced in relation to criminal organizations, the drugs trade and trafficking in persons and recognized efforts made by the Government.

114. The State of Palestine congratulated Costa Rica for progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights since the first UPR cycle. It welcomed the commitment of Costa Rica to improving people's quality of life and developing a culture of respect and non-discrimination in the country.

115. The Sudan commended Costa Rica for its accession to different human rights treaties, its adoption of related legislation and its efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups. It also commended its efforts to combat human trafficking.

116. Canada asked the delegation for more information on initiatives to continue fighting racism, particularly against persons of African descent, indigenous communities, migrants and refugees.

117. Thailand welcomed the establishment of CIIDDHH and the permanent body for consultation with civil society.

118. Togo applauded the important actions undertaken by Costa Rica since the first UPR cycle to ensure the effective enjoyment of human rights in the country.

119. Trinidad and Tobago acknowledged the challenges and efforts to enhance the Costa Rican framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of programmes and policies targeting specific groups.

120. Tunisia appreciated efforts undertaken since the last review of Costa Rica, including the ratification of international and regional human rights instruments and the adoption of national policies.

121. Uzbekistan welcomed the establishment of CIIDDHH. It expressed concern at the vulnerable situation of women, discrimination against indigenous communities and children of African descent and the high number of juveniles in prison. It noted allegations of ill-treatment of children by police and prison officers.

122. Ukraine commended Costa Rica for its efforts to promote and protect human rights, ensure the rule of law and comply with international human rights standards. It encouraged Costa Rica to pursue those activities, in particular those related to child labour.

123. The United Kingdom welcomed the ongoing emphasis in Costa Rica on protecting children from abuse and urged Costa Rica to ensure that all offenders were prosecuted. It also encouraged Costa Rica to strengthen efforts to protect women from domestic violence and reduce discrimination against LGBT persons.

124. The delegation appreciated the comments and recommendations made with regard to children and young persons who were victims of organized crime. It noted that the Costa Rican authorities were working to guarantee their protection.

125. The delegation was grateful for the spirit of dialogue and cooperation in which the country's challenges had been identified. The current exercise was especially enriching, above all because, prior to the meeting, an internal review of the human rights situation in

the country had been carried out, which had enabled Costa Rica to identify the areas in which efforts needed to be made.

126. Costa Rica was committed to the work of the Human Rights Council. It had always defended civil society's participation at the national level and within the Council. The commitment of Costa Rica to the Council was reflected in the fact that it was standing for re-election to the Council, for which it hoped to be able to count on the support of States.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

127. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Costa Rica, which considers that they are already being implemented or are in the process of implementation:**

127.1 **Consider accession to ILO Convention No. 189 (Philippines);**

127.2 **Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (Sierra Leone);**

127.3 **Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers (Uzbekistan);**

127.4 **Finalize without further delay the fifth report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the sixth report to the Human Rights Committee and the third report to the Committee against Torture, overdue since 2012 (Norway);**

127.5 **Submit its outstanding reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture (Sierra Leone).**

128. **The following recommendations will be examined by Costa Rica, which will respond to them in due course, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2014:**

128.1 **Ratify the international instruments to which it is not yet a party (Benin);**

128.2 **Consider the ratification of the international instruments to which it is not yet a party (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

128.3 **Consider the possibility of ratifying ICRMW (Uruguay); Consider ratifying ICRMW (Albania); Consider becoming a party to ICRMW as recommended previously (Azerbaijan); Consider acceding to ICRMW (Chad); Consider the ratification of ICRMW (Ghana); (Indonesia); Consider ratifying ICRMW (Nicaragua); (Niger); (Rwanda); (Sri Lanka); Consider accession to ICRMW (Philippines);**

128.4 **Sign and ratify ICRMW (Honduras); Ratify ICRMW (Argentina); (Ecuador); (El Salvador); (Guatemala); (Paraguay); (Sierra Leone);**

128.5 **Favourably consider ratifying ICRMW (Algeria);**

128.6 **Consider ratifying ICRMW and harmonizing domestic legislation with international norms (Senegal);**

128.7 **Complete the ratification process of OP-ICESCR (Slovakia);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

128.8 **Ratify OP-ICESCR (Portugal);**

128.9 **Take further measures for the harmonization of legislation and policies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including with regard to children affected by migration (Albania);**

128.10 **Further elaborate provisions in its legislation on the justiciability of the right to education (Bulgaria);**

128.11 **Implement the recommendation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples concerning the bill for the autonomous development of indigenous peoples and the restitution of lands to indigenous communities (Congo);**

128.12 **Ensure that the Legislative Assembly adopts Law 14.352 on the autonomous development of indigenous peoples (Spain);**

128.13 **Adopt a law guaranteeing the rights of indigenous people in the country (Uzbekistan);**

128.14 **Revise the law on abortion in order to identify other circumstances in which abortion could be permitted, particularly abortion in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest (Belgium);**

128.15 **Amend the current law to legalize abortion after rape (Switzerland);**

128.16 **Take steps to guarantee full and effective recognition of sexual and reproductive rights, notably through the decriminalization of voluntary interruption of pregnancy (France);**

128.17 **Elaborate clear medical guidelines on access to legal abortion and consider reviewing the law relating to abortion, including to ensure access to legal abortion in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape (Iceland);**

128.18 **Consider reviewing the law related to abortion to guarantee access to abortion when pregnancy is a result of rape (Norway);**

128.19 **Introduce legislation to create a legal and permanent basis for the "Defensoría del los Habitantes" set up to protect human rights defenders, including providing it with an adequate budget and financial autonomy (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

128.20 **Fully align national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute (Estonia);**

128.21 **Achieve the harmonization of national legislation with the Rome Statute (Tunisia);**

128.22 **Continue efforts aimed at harmonization of legislation and public policies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ukraine);**

128.23 **Criminalize all forms of trafficking in children (Honduras);**

128.24 **Enact regulations to the 2013 law establishing a referral mechanism for victims of trafficking to enable them to apply for asylum, where appropriate (Ireland);**

128.25 **Introduce in the Criminal Code the crime of trafficking in children, particularly those trafficked for the purposes of commercial and sexual exploitation (Mexico);**

128.26 **Enact a new water law as soon as possible giving effect to the right to water, as recommended by the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation (Spain);**

128.27 **Consider undertaking a comprehensive review of its normative framework on sanitation, with a view to ensuring the establishment of a coherent and comprehensive system for the collection, management, treatment and disposal of wastewater in order to prevent the contamination of rivers and other water streams (Egypt);**

128.28 **Provide the necessary resources to the Defensoría de los Habitantes, which constitutes the national prevention mechanism provided for under OP-CAT, so that it can fully implement its mandate (France);**

128.29 **Extend the scope of the activities of the national preventive mechanism under OP-CAT in order to include places of deprivation of liberty which are not under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Security, Interior and the Police (Hungary);**

128.30 **Take effective measures to generate inclusive social practices to ensure the observance of the human rights of indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, migrants and refugees (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

128.31 **Further strengthen the social and comprehensive protection programmes carried out by the National Council on Children and Adolescents through increased resources, in order to achieve greater effectiveness in their management (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

128.32 **Ensure the integration and effective implementation of strategies on drop-out rate reduction, child labour elimination and poverty alleviation (Viet Nam);**

128.33 **Continue efforts aimed at ensuring all the rights of children and adolescents, girls in particular, in the area of freedom of expression and opinion, as well as addressing the special needs of children with disabilities, indigenous children, migrant children and other children in vulnerable situations (El Salvador);**

128.34 **Guarantee the effective protection of children's rights offline as well as online by amending the relevant national laws if necessary and providing adequate resources (Estonia);**

128.35 **Further enforce the implementation of a comprehensive child protection system, especially for those suffering from violence, forced labour and sexual exploitation (Germany);**

128.36 **Ensure stronger coordination between entities dealing with issues relating to children and provide sufficient resources at the national as well as local level, including the provision of temporary shelters (Germany);**

128.37 **Adopt appropriate public policies to protect and promote children's rights and to implement the national child protection system in an effective and coordinated manner (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

128.38 **Continue guaranteeing solid coordination between institutions responsible for addressing issues regarding children (State of Palestine);**

128.39 **Continue with its policies of gender equality and equity mechanism in all areas (Bhutan);**

128.40 **Continue, in line with what is described in its national report, its efforts to provide greater access to education and employment, in order to reduce the conditions for the progression of criminal organizations (Cuba);**

128.41 **Increase the financial resources allocated to bodies in charge of fighting drugs, alcoholism and drug dependence, in order to curb crime and violence in society (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

128.42 **Take necessary measures for the realization of women's rights in rural and remote areas (Pakistan);**

128.43 **Pay special attention to the needs of women in rural and remote areas (Rwanda);**

128.44 **Continue its constructive engagement with civil society in its UPR process and on other human rights issues (Bhutan);**

128.45 **Develop awareness campaigns on equality and non-discrimination (Chile);**

128.46 **Put in place measures to eliminate harmful traditional practices and raise awareness for attitudes to change in relation to discriminatory gender roles (Botswana);**

128.47 **Reinforce efforts to eliminate the discrimination against indigenous children, Afro-descendants, migrants and persons with disabilities (Nicaragua);**

128.48 **Ensure effective protection against violence and discrimination against women, and implement awareness-raising campaigns about changes in traditional attitudes and discriminatory gender roles (Albania);**

128.49 **Continue carrying out its efforts to achieve gender equality and tackle discrimination against women in law and practice (Colombia);**

128.50 **Strengthen its domestic mechanisms, especially towards eliminating acts of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Maldives);**

128.51 **Step up policies to combat discrimination against women in the labour market, particularly with regard to wage disparities and the concentration of women in low-paid jobs (Paraguay);**

128.52 **Pursue efforts to combat structural racism and prosecute perpetrators of racist acts (Togo);**

128.53 **Establish policies and programmes aimed at combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination in the education system (Ecuador);**

128.54 **Seek to expand its targeted measures to reduce discrimination against persons of African descent and indigenous peoples (Trinidad and Tobago);**

128.55 **Design awareness-raising campaign on cultural diversity, on countering racial discrimination, xenophobia and all other forms of intolerance and promoting inclusiveness, social cohesion and respect for the values of diversity (Turkmenistan);**

128.56 **Consider ways to widen and enhance the effectiveness of measures to promote social inclusion and diversity, guaranteeing the full and effective exercise of human rights by indigenous people, persons of African descent,**

migrants and refugees, and eradicating all forms of racial discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Brazil);

128.57 **Undertake policies aiming at combating all forms of discrimination, notably those targeting indigenous peoples (France);**

128.58 **Intensify public education campaigns to counter structural racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and punish perpetrators of racist acts, taking into account the fact that Costa Rica is a State party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Rome Statute (Ghana);**

128.59 **Further intensify its efforts to eliminate structural racism and racial discrimination in all its forms (India);**

128.60 **Design awareness-raising campaign on cultural diversity and continue its efforts to end discrimination and xenophobia against minorities (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

128.61 **Strengthen the measures for indigenous populations and persons of African descent against all forms of discrimination, and ensure their promotion and visibility in society (Niger);**

128.62 **Continue with its efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, as well as set up mechanisms to prosecute perpetrators of racist acts (Pakistan);**

128.63 **Strengthen measures on combating discrimination against indigenous and migrant children and children with disabilities, as well as investigate all cases of ill-treatment of children by police officers and prison guards (Azerbaijan);**

128.64 **Intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against indigenous children, Afro-descendant children, migrant children and children with disabilities (Tunisia);**

128.65 **Redouble efforts to eliminate discrimination against minority children, including children of African descent and children with disabilities, and improve their socioeconomic conditions as earlier recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Ghana);**

128.66 **Step up efforts to eliminate discrimination against indigenous children, Afro-descendant children and migrant children (Guatemala);**

128.67 **Guarantee the birth registration of all indigenous and migrant children and the issuance of identity documents that would allow them to have access to social services (Honduras);**

128.68 **Enhance efforts to improve the rate of birth registration among indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups (Senegal);**

128.69 **Continue the measures to combat discrimination against LGBTI persons (Argentina);**

128.70 **Design awareness-raising policies and programmes regarding the prevention of discrimination of LGBT persons and provide equal rights for LGBT persons. In practical terms this means providing better access to justice for people whose rights have been infringed because of their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation; it also means allowing same-sex couples to enter into cohabitation contracts in order to remove inequalities**

relating to inheritance, health care, social security; and finally it means removing discriminatory provisions from the Criminal Code and other laws and regulations (Netherlands);

128.71 **Conduct public awareness policies and programmes, in cooperation with civil society, to change cultural paradigms and attitudes in order to encourage and promote respect for LGBTI persons and fight against prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI persons (Slovenia);**

128.72 **Fight discrimination against LGBT persons both in law and in practice, as it impacts on the possibilities of education, justice and access to health services, with emphasis on the difficulties faced by transgender people (Uruguay);**

128.73 **Improve prison conditions by reducing overcrowding, improving sanitation, increasing access to medical care, and reducing the incidence of violence among prisoners (United States of America);**

128.74 **Address overcrowding and harsh conditions in prisons (Australia);**

128.75 **Take concrete measures aiming at reducing overcrowding in the prisons of the country and ensuring that conditions of detention are in conformity with the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty (Switzerland);**

128.76 **Continue to take effective measures to improve detention conditions and limit overcrowding in detention centres, including those administered by the migration authorities (Egypt);**

128.77 **Take further action to improve prison conditions, especially to account for the specific needs of women and children in detention (Germany);**

128.78 **Take necessary measures to improve the human rights situation of inmates by improving conditions in prison establishments, including by ensuring appropriate infrastructure (Japan);**

128.79 **Implement measures to improve sanitation conditions and prevent overcrowding in administrative detention centres, especially those under the authority of migration authorities (Mexico);**

128.80 **Reform the penitentiary system in order to lessen prison overcrowding and ensure the necessary sanitary conditions for inmates, enhance access to medical services and reduce to a minimum and investigate harsh treatment or abuse of authority by prison personnel (Russian Federation);**

128.81 **Carry on with the implementation of concrete measures to significantly reduce prison overcrowding in Costa Rica, and address the non-separation of minor and adult detainees (Canada);**

128.82 **Strengthen efforts to address violence against women, including sex trafficking, by improving prevention efforts, providing comprehensive specialized services to survivors, and continuing to investigate and prosecute instances of criminal violence against women (United States of America);**

128.83 **Continue efforts to fight violence against women and children (Algeria);**

128.84 **Strengthen its efforts to address the serious and ongoing problem of domestic violence (Australia);**

128.85 **Provide effective protection against violence and discrimination against women, in line with an accepted UPR recommendation (Egypt);**

128.86 **Continue efforts to eradicate violence against women (El Salvador);**

128.87 **Reinforce the fight against domestic violence, by strengthening the administration of justice (France);**

128.88 **Spearhead public policies, procedures and guidelines with a focus on the comprehensive protection of women from violence (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

128.89 **Enhance its efforts to comprehensively address the issue of violence against women by, inter alia, putting in place preventive measures such as education and awareness-raising (Japan);**

128.90 **Increase efforts to implement the laws on violence against women and to extend the area of influence of the National Institute for Women, providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence (Liechtenstein);**

128.91 **Introduce as a crime domestic and intrafamily violence and take the necessary measures to ensure the training of relevant authorities (Mexico);**

128.92 **Address problems in applying the Violence against Women Act within the courts, towards effectively criminalizing violence against women (Montenegro);**

128.93 **Further improve the application of the act criminalizing violence against women (Netherlands);**

128.94 **Intensify its efforts in realizing gender equality through conducting awareness-raising and public educational campaigns with a view to bring about changes in such attitudes, and underlining that all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, are unacceptable (Norway);**

128.95 **Criminalize domestic violence (Paraguay);**

128.96 **Create a national programme to counter violence against women, in particular domestic violence (Russian Federation);**

128.97 **Continue its efforts to combat gender-based violence to provide a safe living environment for women and girls (Singapore);**

128.98 **Continue with its efforts to effectively implement the law on criminal sanctions for violence against women and pay special attention to ensuring coordination among institutions providing assistance and support to victims (Slovenia);**

128.99 **Provide legal assistance and support to victims of domestic violence, including outside of the metropolitan area (Slovenia);**

128.100 **Allocate sufficient funds for the effective application of the Violence against Women Act (Spain);**

128.101 **Undertake effective awareness-raising campaigns to address violence against women (Spain);**

128.102 **Enhance its efforts for the protection of children from all forms of violation including domestic violence and sexual exploitation (Sudan);**

128.103 **Continue its efforts to eliminate threats, discrimination and violence against women and girls, by improving, inter alia, the implementation by the courts of the law criminalizing violence against women and the availability of legal assistance for all victims of domestic violence (Canada);**

128.104 **Take steps to expand the provision of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence beyond metropolitan areas (Trinidad and Tobago);**

128.105 **Expand programmes to eliminate the worst forms of child labour to reach more children in agriculture and children exploited in prostitution (United States of America);**

128.106 **Strengthen its actions to curb sexual exploitation of children (Bangladesh);**

128.107 **Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of programmes to protect children's rights at the local level, particularly as regards violence, commercial sexual exploitation and child labour (Belgium);**

128.108 **Take steps to prevent violence against children, in particular in school, family and penitentiary environments, and engage effectively in the prosecution of all those involved in such violence (France);**

128.109 **Strengthen its efforts to combat domestic violence and violence against children and adolescents (Italy);**

128.110 **Increase efforts to implement the legal framework regarding ill-treatment of children, child labour and sexual exploitation of children (Liechtenstein);**

128.111 **Step up measures to ensure stronger coordination between agencies dealing with issues relating to children in order to eliminate violence, commercial sexual exploitation and child labour (Malaysia);**

128.112 **Combat child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse, and further advance strategies to eliminate the discrimination against indigenous, minority children and children of African descent (Sierra Leone);**

128.113 **Continue efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour and, if necessary, adopt further measures in this area (Slovakia);**

128.114 **Ensure effective implementation of the act on human trafficking and migrant smuggling and the adoption of appropriate legal, administrative and preventive measures aimed at creating an effective policy and institutional framework for combating the exploitation of persons, especially women and children (Bahrain);**

128.115 **Continue the actions aimed at fighting trafficking in persons (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

128.116 **Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in children, facilitate access to justice and enhance victim protection and assistance in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Botswana);**

128.117 **Criminalize all forms of trafficking in children, facilitate access to justice and provide compensation for child victims, and enhance victim protection and assistance (Egypt);**

128.118 **Strengthen measures taken to combat trafficking in persons, in particular children and women (Ethiopia);**

128.119 **Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of the comprehensive legal framework to combat trafficking in persons and improve assistance to victims of trafficking, especially women and children (India);**

128.120 **Ensure continuous progress in its efforts to combat trafficking, including through the full implementation of the trafficking in persons act as well as awareness-raising campaigns (Indonesia);**

128.121 **Strengthen measures for the respect of the rights of the child and protect children against sexual exploitation and illegal trafficking (Libya);**

128.122 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that the law concerning trafficking is effectively implemented (Montenegro);**

128.123 **Strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, including through prevention actions (Morocco);**

128.124 **Develop a national plan of action to combat trafficking in human beings (Russian Federation);**

128.125 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and reinforce measures to provide adequate assistance to victims (Slovakia);**

128.126 **Take immediate steps to strengthen measures to protect children from all forms of violence, including trafficking in children (Sri Lanka);**

128.127 **Continue its efforts in the area of countering trafficking in persons and all associated violations to the rights of the victims (Sudan);**

128.128 **Combat more effectively the sexual exploitation of children and child labour, by improving the implementation of the February 2013 law against smuggling and trafficking in persons, and by strengthening coordination among the agencies comprising the national coalition against trafficking in persons (Canada);**

128.129 **Ensure the full prosecution of all forms of trafficking and modern slavery of children so as to deliver on its commitment to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2015 and all forms of child labour by 2020, paying particular attention to persons from minority groups and in vulnerable situations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

128.130 **Step up efforts to improve the protection of the rights of women and children, notably by criminally prosecuting those responsible for the violations (Switzerland);**

128.131 **Strengthen the actions aimed at fighting criminal organizations, drug trafficking and human trafficking (Côte d'Ivoire);**

128.132 **Intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual abuse and provide specialized assistance to victims (Australia);**

128.133 **Strengthen efforts in the fight against trafficking in women and girls as well as the exploitation of prostitution, and harmonize legal procedures concerning prosecution of traffickers (Belgium);**

128.134 **Intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking including forced labour (Australia);**

128.135 **Ensure that women victims of violence have prompt access to justice and that the acts of violence are adequately prevented, investigated, punished and redressed (Bahrain);**

128.136 **Consider, in the area of administration of justice, the protection of children and adolescents in juvenile detention centres (Zambia);**

128.137 **Take further measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children of their human rights, notably regarding the juvenile justice system and cases of child labour (Portugal);**

128.138 **Consider and address the issue of reportedly high number of children and adolescents in juvenile detention centres by applying child-friendly justice standards and encouraging the use of alternative sanctions and reintegration programmes (Serbia);**

128.139 **Continue to uphold the traditional values of family life (Bangladesh);**

128.140 **Step up measures for the protection of the rights of women and girls and take steps to establish and bolster the family regime and strengthen its legal arsenal related to family aspects (Mauritania);**

128.141 **Improve the national legislation in order to fully ensure freedom of belief, conscience and religion (Russian Federation);**

128.142 **Continue consulting and involving indigenous people in all debates and decision-making processes with direct impact on them (Romania);**

128.143 **Adopt special measures to accelerate the full and equal participation in public and political life of women, including women of African descent, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);**

128.144 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of ILO Convention No. 189, which will come into force in January 2015 (Uruguay);**

128.145 **Continue to strengthen social policies and programmes targeted to the more needy sectors of the population, to improve their quality of life and ability to enter the labour market (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

128.146 **Continue to make comprehensive efforts in economic and social development (China);**

128.147 **Continue to prioritize eradicating poverty and further improving people's living standards (China);**

128.148 **Strengthen the implementation of the existing programmes for poverty eradication, especially those directed towards the most vulnerable populations (Colombia);**

128.149 **Continue the efforts to fight poverty and promote the equal distribution of wealth (Côte d'Ivoire);**

128.150 **Reinforce ongoing work to guarantee equal social services to all (El Salvador);**

128.151 **Continue its programmes aimed at poverty alleviation (Philippines);**

128.152 **Take appropriate measures to address social inequality and disparities by paying particular attention to persons belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups and providing better access to education, health and employment (Sri Lanka);**

128.153 **Continue with the measures implemented in favour of the human right to water and sanitation, in the framework of General Assembly resolution 64/292 (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

128.154 **Ensure equal access to quality health-care services, including by promoting training and capacity-building of medical personnel and students (Thailand);**

128.155 **Ensure affordable access to basic health care for all children (Egypt);**

128.156 **Continue to implement its various programmes to reduce HIV prevalence and to improve access to quality health care by its people (Singapore);**

128.157 **Develop clear medical guidelines on access to legal abortion (Belgium);**

128.158 **Introduce effective policies with more resources to reduce the drop-out rate at all school levels (Viet Nam);**

128.159 **Strengthen measures allowing indigenous communities to have access to education (Bulgaria);**

128.160 **Incorporate human rights education in school curricula (Bulgaria);**

128.161 **Reinforce bilingual and intercultural education models for indigenous children and include education on indigenous cultures in the national school curriculum, with a view to promoting respect for diversity (Ireland);**

128.162 **Consider adopting public policies on ensuring quality education for children and adolescents, and further allocate adequate financial resources to this endeavour, including by focusing on reducing the number of school dropouts (Malaysia);**

128.163 **Continue to take effective measures to address the very important issue of the realization of the right to education for all (Portugal);**

128.164 **Continue efforts to facilitate access to education for indigenous communities (State of Palestine);**

128.165 **Consider including indigenous cultures in the national education plan with a view to promote respect for diversity (State of Palestine);**

128.166 **Intensify efforts to promote access to education and extend its coverage to all levels of schooling (Ethiopia);**

128.167 **Adopt policies, programmes and affirmative action measures to improve the quality of education in rural areas, specially those inhabited by indigenous peoples and communities, and guarantee them access to paid employment in the public and private sector (Ecuador);**

128.168 **Consider developing programmes to reduce school dropout, increasing investment in educational infrastructure, and promoting effective programmes to address low school attendance (Egypt);**

128.169 **Continue to ensure inclusive education for children and persons with disabilities, as education would allow them to participate more fully in the development of their own communities (Thailand);**

128.170 **Ensure implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bahrain);**

128.171 **Intensify current efforts to improve the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities (Chile);**

128.172 Formulate a national action plan to develop specific initiatives with regard to persons with disabilities (Spain);

128.173 Integrate programmes and projects aimed at benefiting Afro-descendant populations into different development plans (Togo);

128.174 Adopt effective measures to improve the socioeconomic status of indigenous women and children as well as of those of African descent (Uzbekistan);

128.175 Promote and protect the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));

128.176 Implement policies and measures that guarantee fully the human rights of indigenous peoples and improve their living conditions and standards (El Salvador);

128.177 Adopt legislation to recognize and regulate the rights of indigenous populations (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

128.178 Strengthen its efforts to improve the socioeconomic situation of minority children (Turkmenistan);

128.179 Set up effective mechanisms for the recovery of indigenous lands (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

128.180 Deploy further efforts in order to fully involve indigenous peoples in decisions and policies affecting their rights, including those regarding the territories where they live (Italy);

128.181 Take concrete measures to protect the rights and promote the development of indigenous peoples while ensuring their full participation in the decision-making and implementation of policies that affect them (India);

128.182 Continue its efforts for the effective inclusion of indigenous people and migrants in society (Angola);

128.183 Harmonize requirements of legislations on migration to ensure that migrants have access to justice, education, health and safety, regardless of their status (Zambia);

128.184 Ensure that migrants have access to justice, education, health care and safety without discrimination (Brazil);

128.185 Continue making progress in the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants, including the safeguard of the interests of boys, girls, adolescents and women (Colombia);

128.186 Continue its efforts to develop a comprehensive migration policy with a human rights perspective (Trinidad and Tobago);

128.187 Adopt national policies that protect and guarantee the rights of all migrant workers in Costa Rica, in particular to address the needs of women and children (El Salvador);

128.188 Take into account the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to adequately address the situation of migrant and refugee women in the labour market (Nicaragua).

129. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Costa Rica was headed by H.E. Ms. Gioconda Ubeda Rivera, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Manuel B. Dengo, Alternate Head of the delegation, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Mr. Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Mr. Norman Lizano, Minister Counsellor;
- Mr. Mario Vega, Minister Counsellor;
- Ms. Shara Duncan, Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship.